

We will take horizontal and vertical slices through biology to illustrate the essentials.

More details in protein layer

Amino Acids

Co-factors

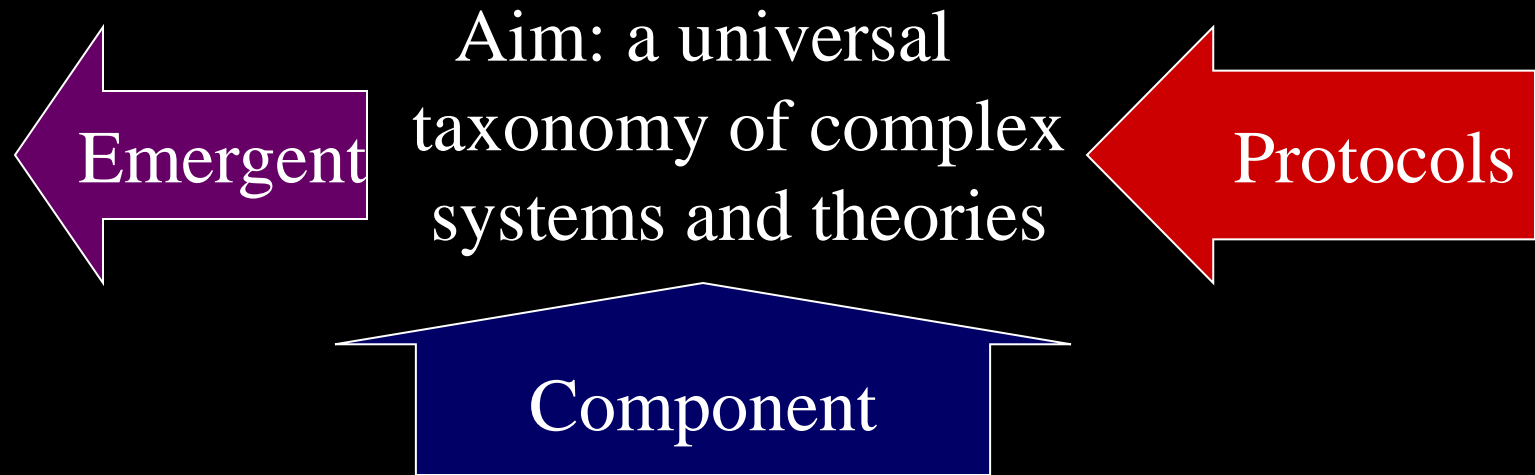
More details about lower layers

DNA

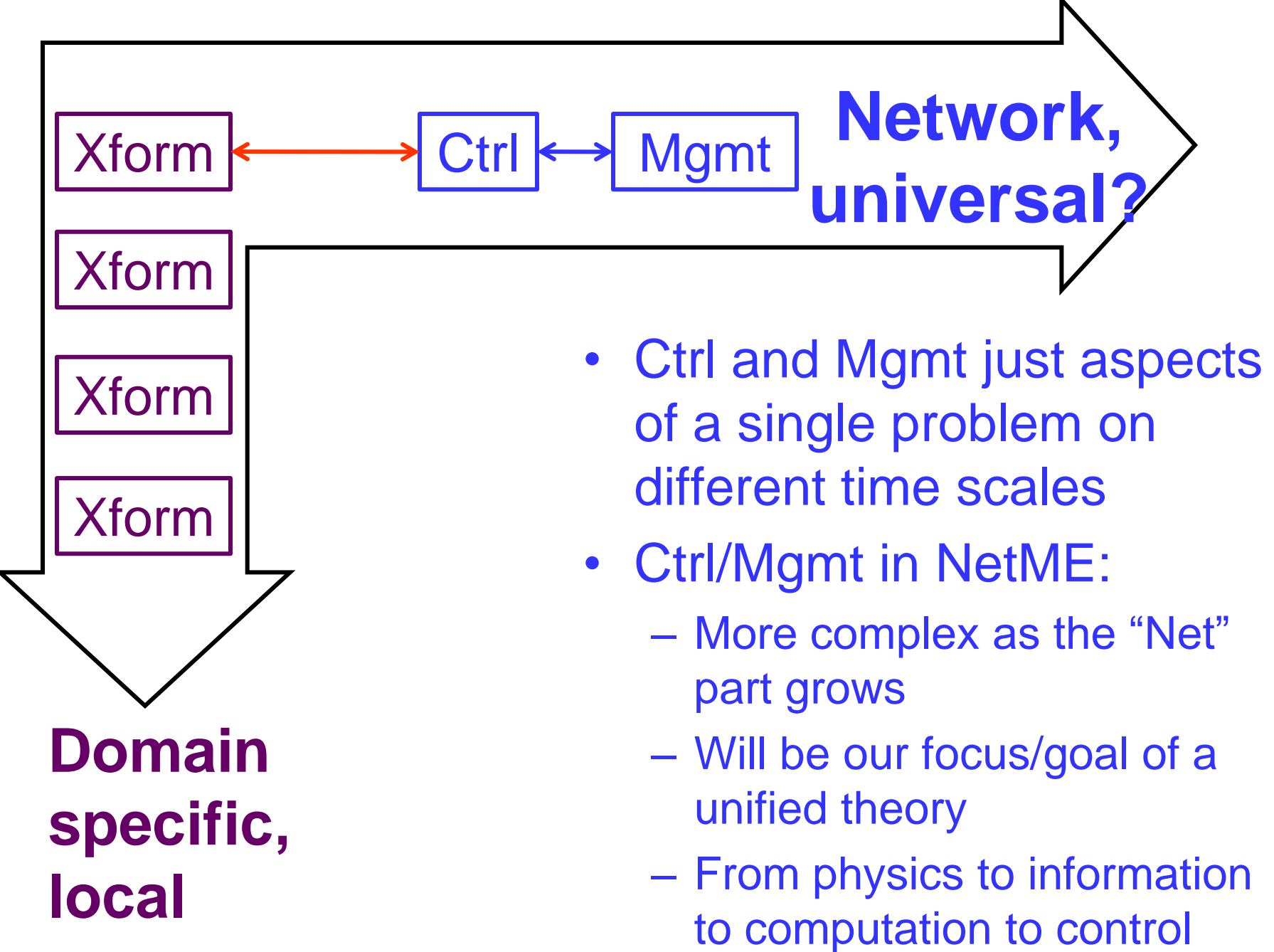
We need to look at the entire biosphere.

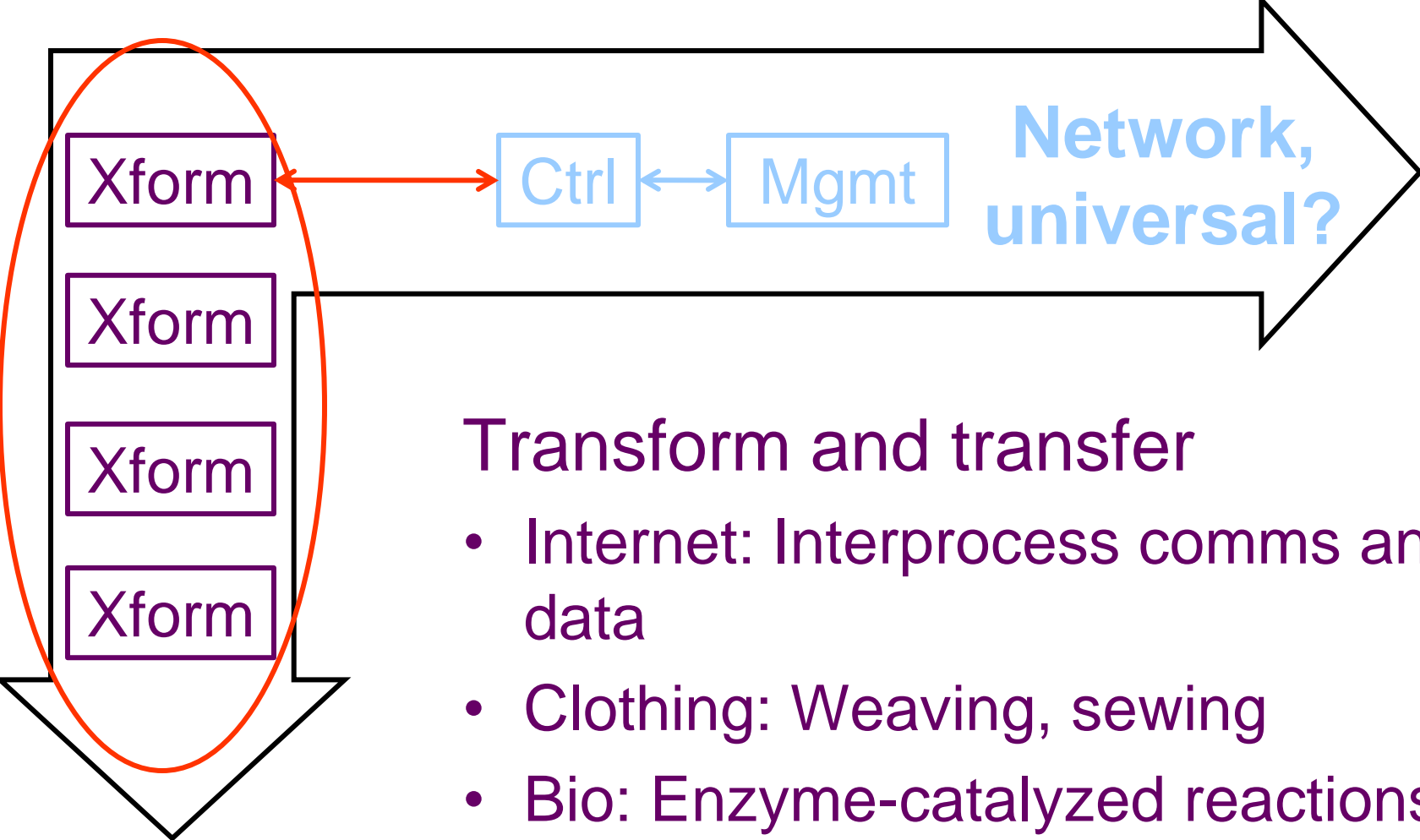
An understanding of architecture is essential to making any sense of this.

Architecture= Constraints



- Describe systems/components in terms of constraints on what is possible
- Decompose constraints into component, system-level, protocols, and emergent
- Not necessarily unique, but hopefully illuminating nonetheless

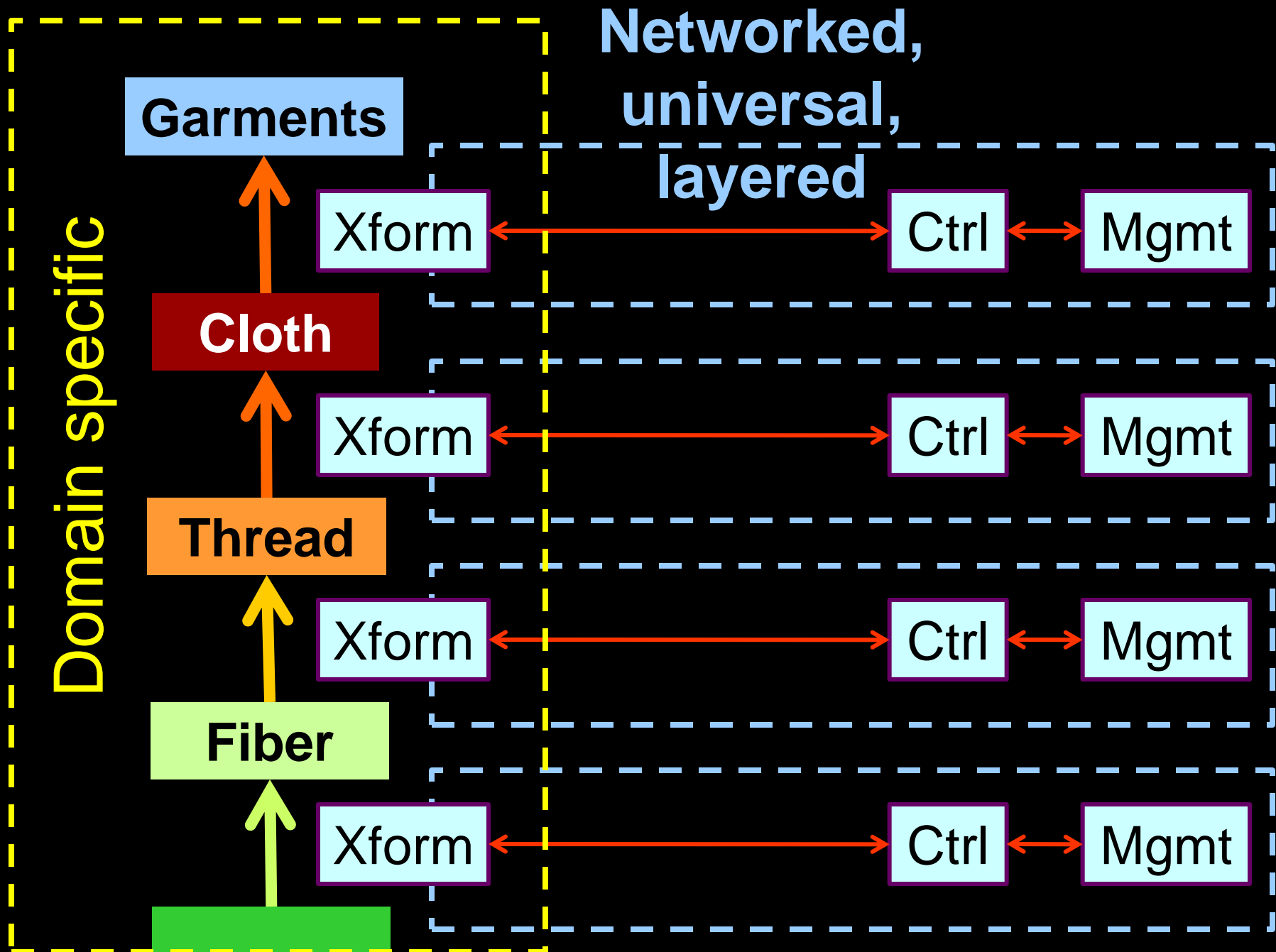


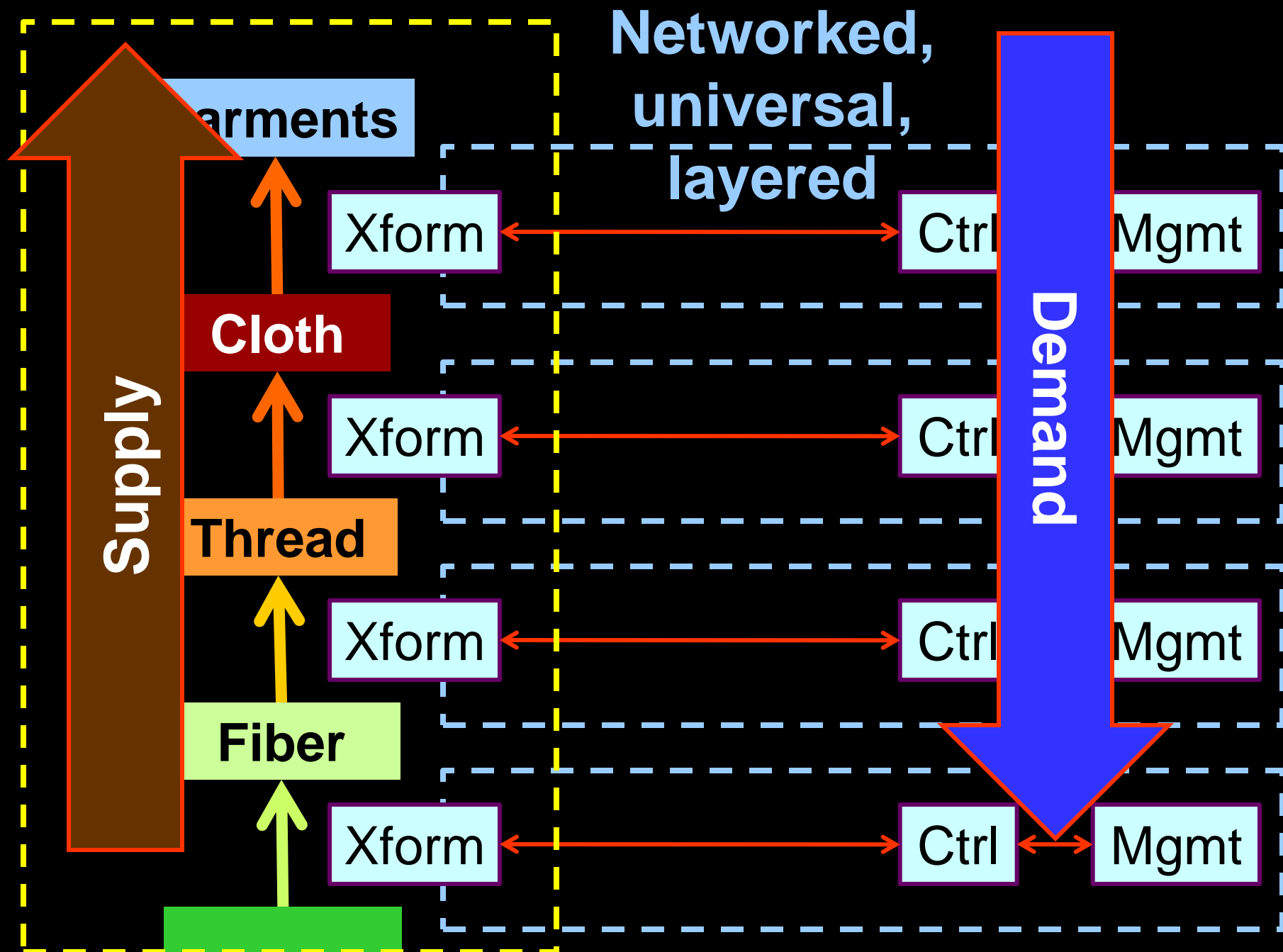


**Domain
specific,
local**

Transform and transfer

- Internet: Interprocess comms and data
- Clothing: Weaving, sewing
- Bio: Enzyme-catalyzed reactions and metabolites
- Lego: assembly and control

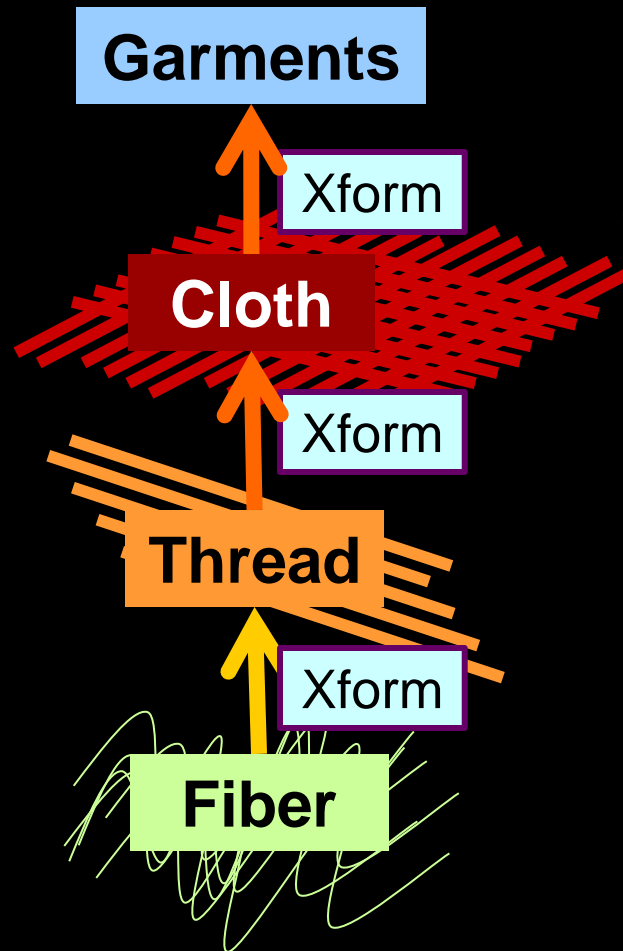




Universal strategies?

Even though garments seem analog/continuous

Garments have limited access to threads and fibers



quantization for robustness

constraints on cross-layer interactions

Prevents unraveling of lower layers

Functionally diverse garments

Diverse fabric

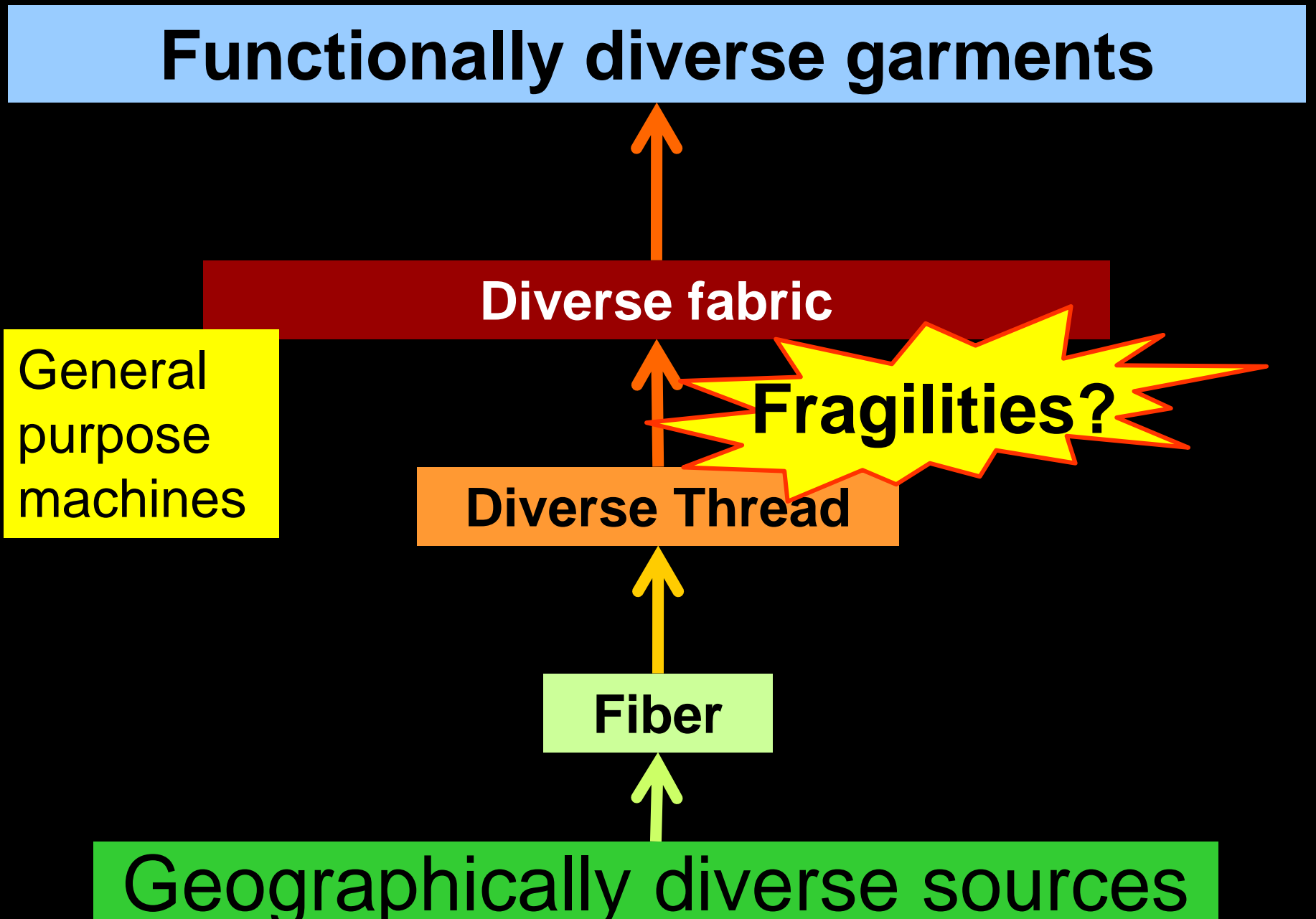
General
purpose
machines

Fragilities?

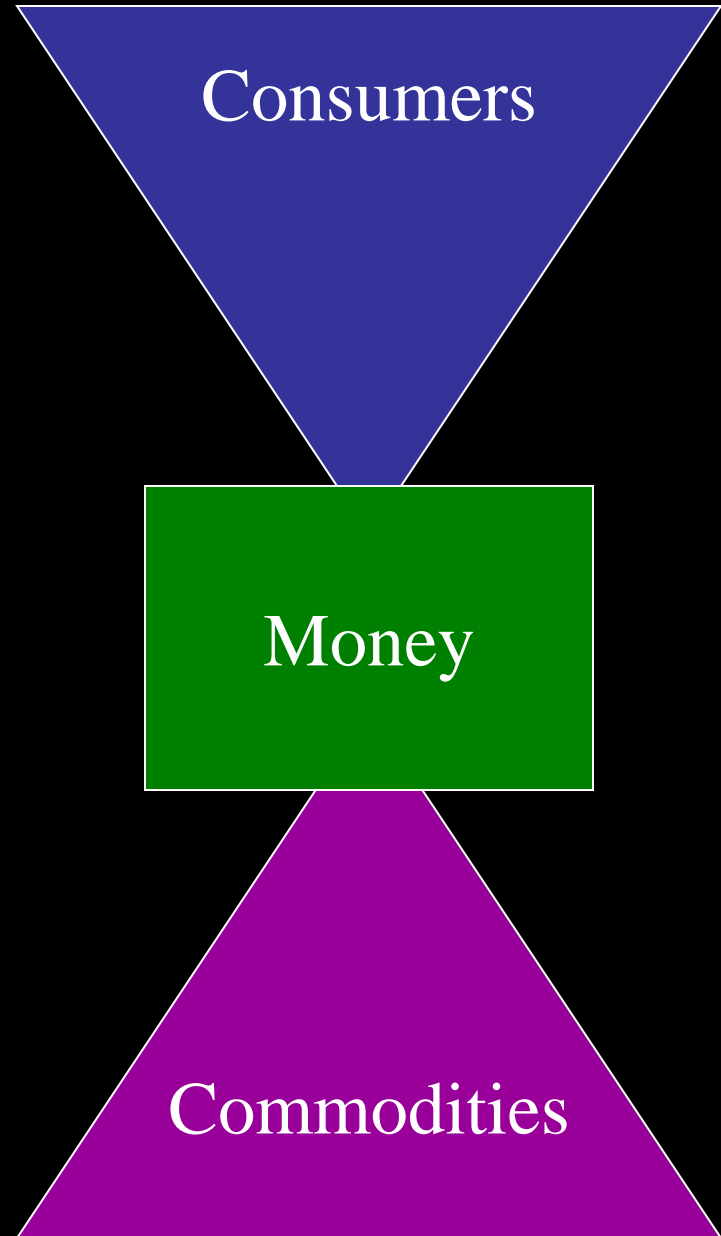
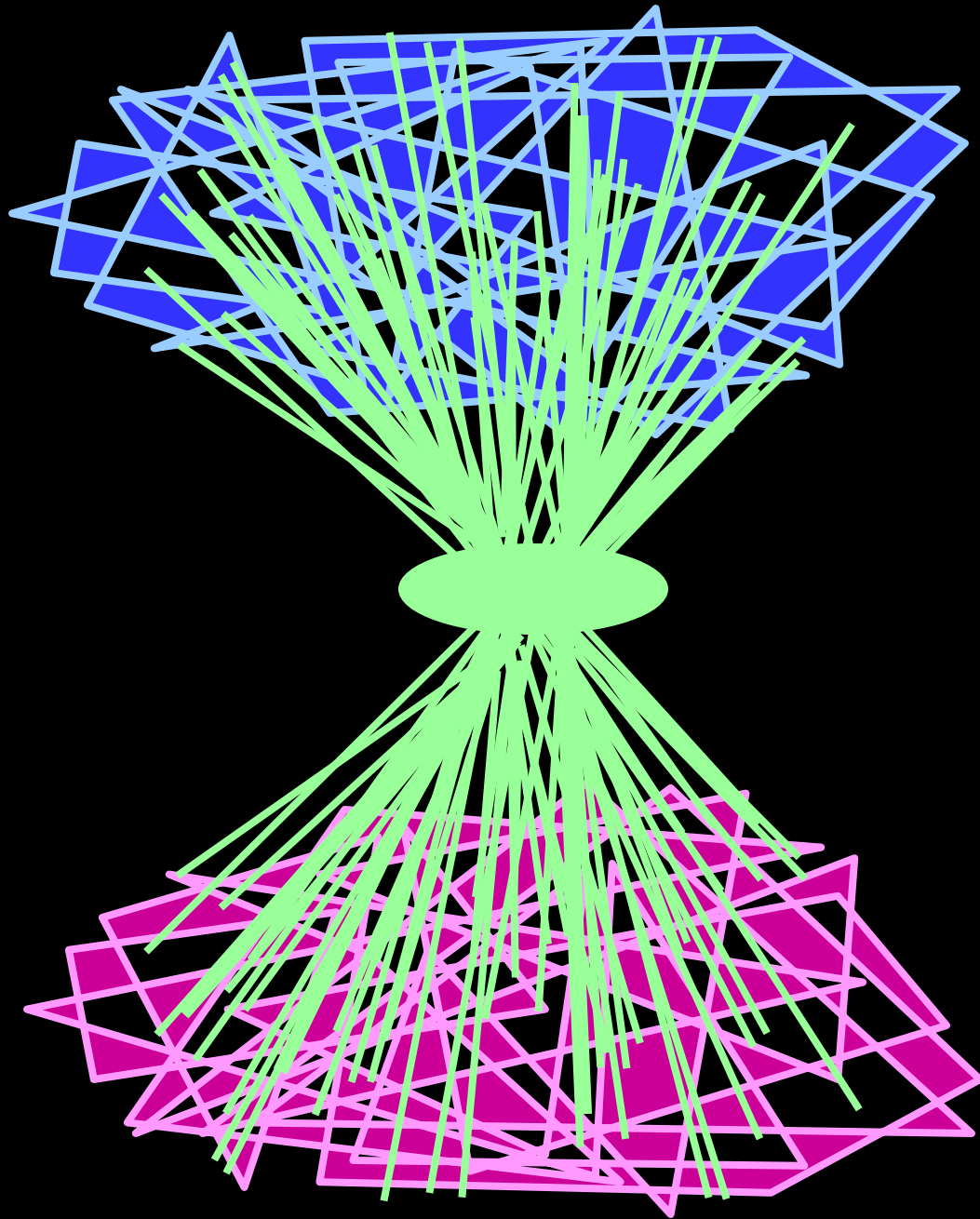
Diverse Thread

Fiber

Geographically diverse sources

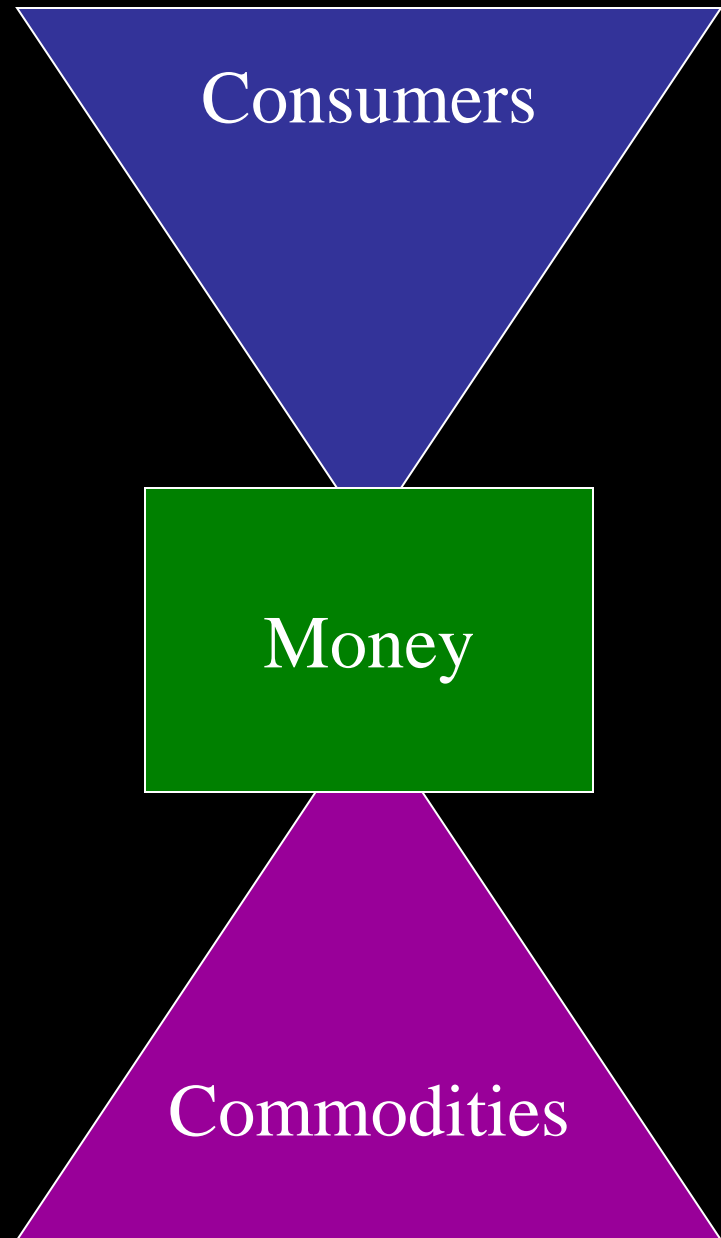


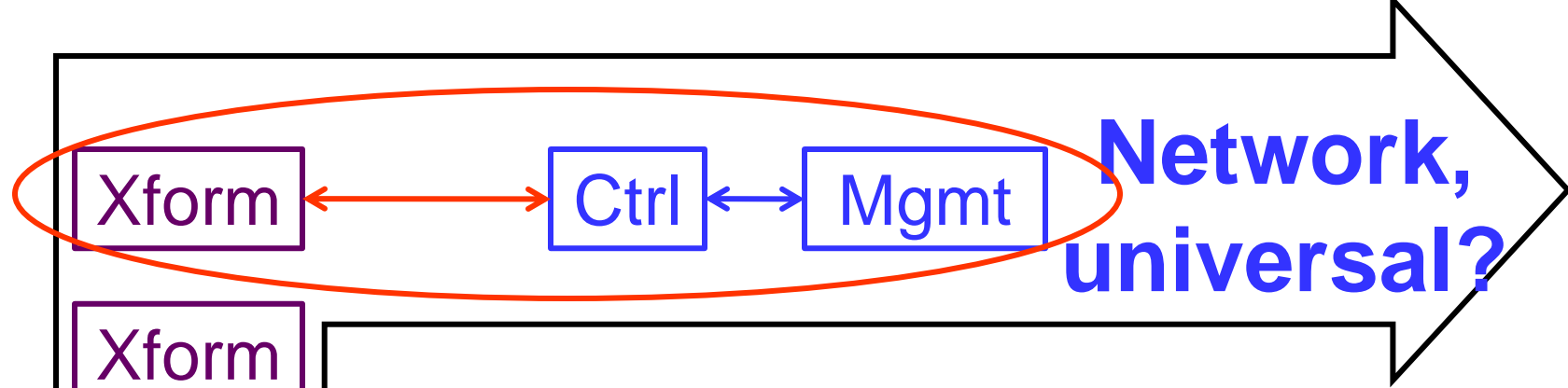
Money



New fragilities

- Theft, counterfeiting, fraud, and “creative accounting” are now possible
- The beginning of a growing complexity-fragility spiral
- Complex legal infrastructure
- Law, banking, finance, Ponzi schemes, derivatives, credit default swaps, ...





Network Ctrl/Mgmt is “universal”

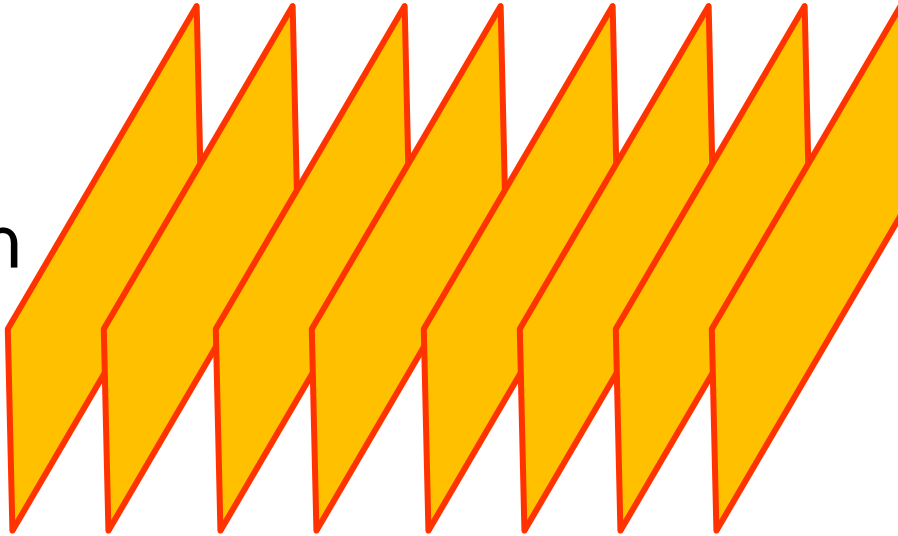
- Allows access and control of distributed resources
- Recursive with varying scope

What is wrong with this picture?

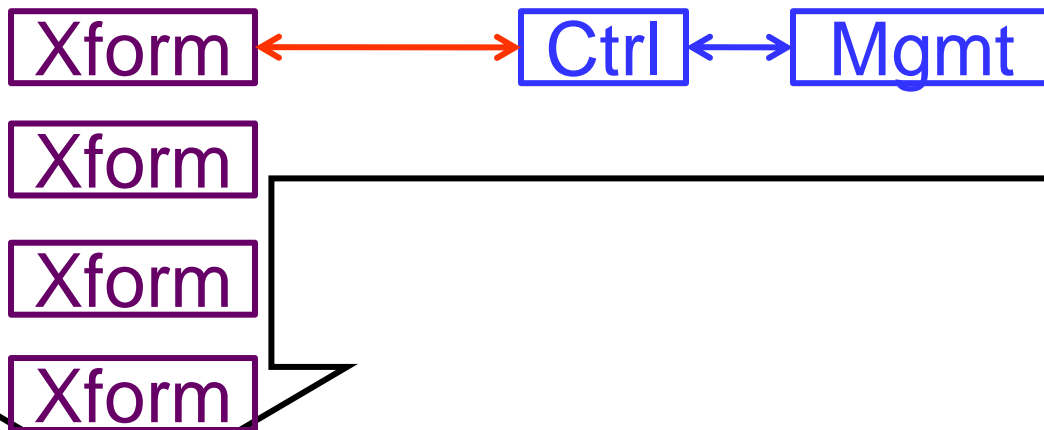
- Except in Internet (data and IPC), not one Xform but many
- Usually a platform for another architecture

Usually a platform for other architectures

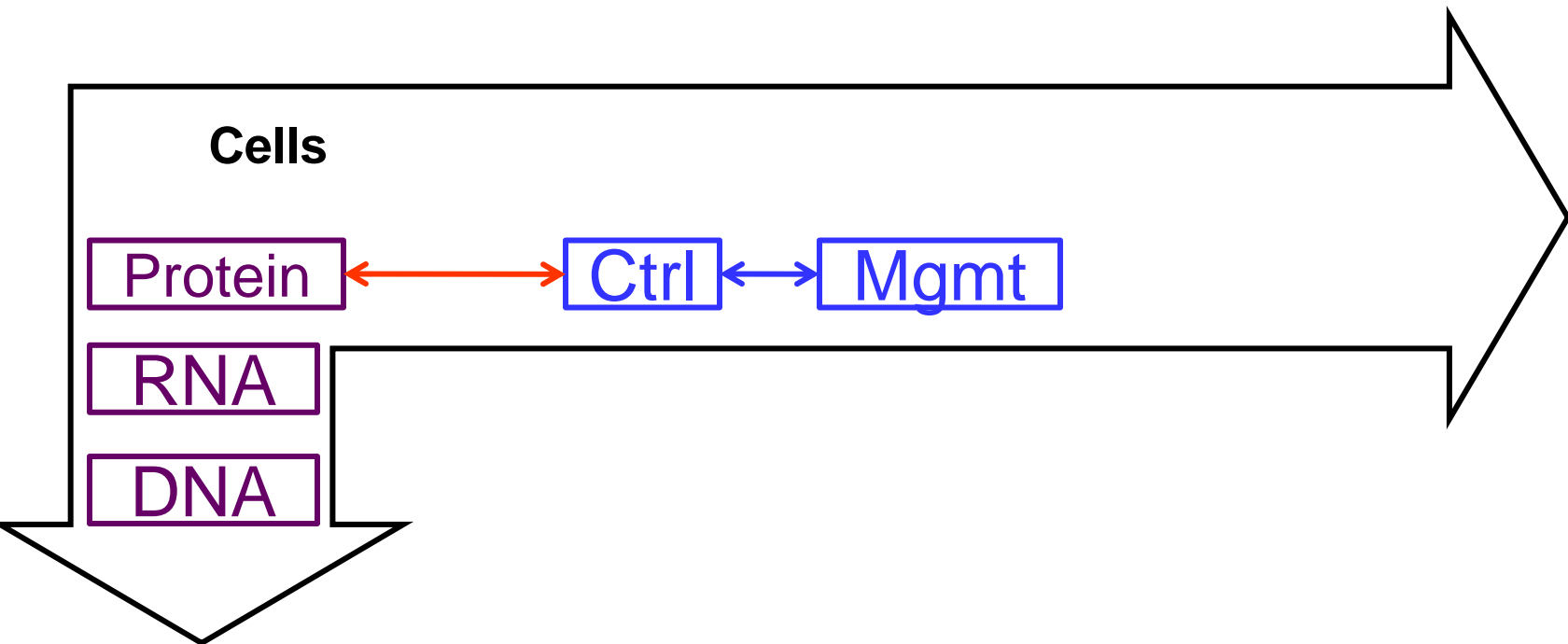
Might be
layered
too but in
distinct
ways.



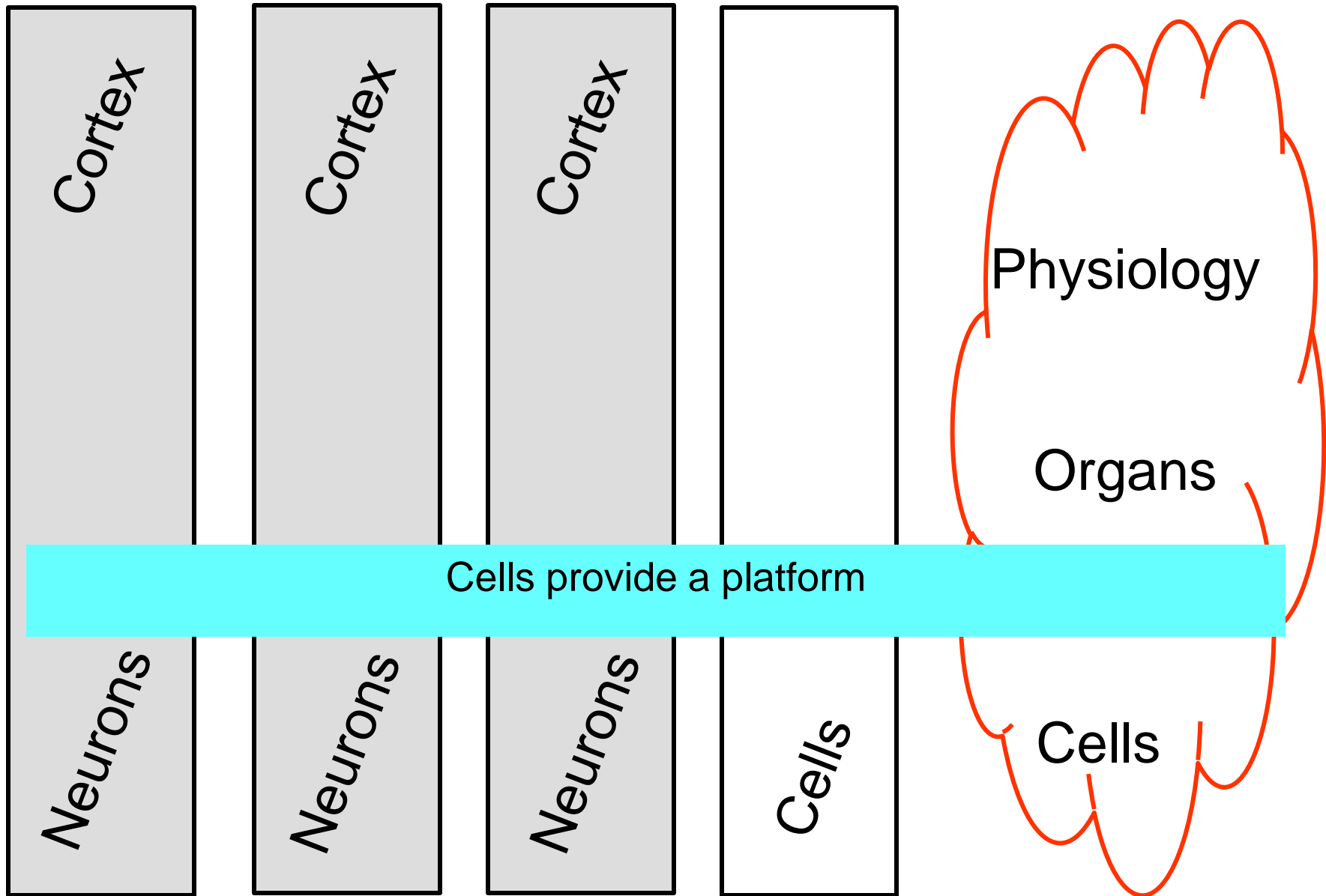
Revisit
this issue
next
lecture.



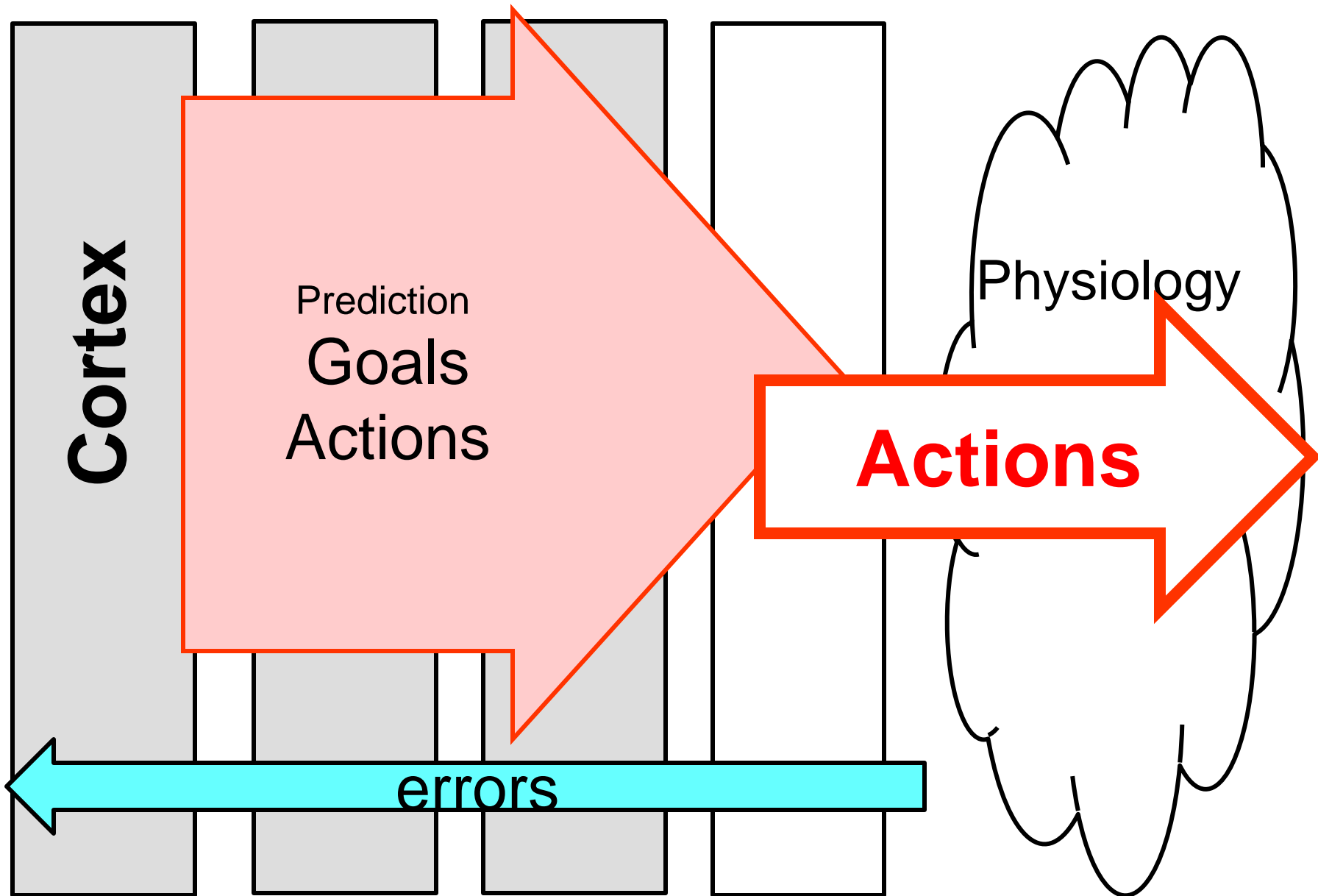
For example, cells have internal layering that provides a platform, for a completely separate layering at the organ level



Layering of neural control



Meta-layers



Lego hourglass



Diverse
toys

Universal
Control

Diverse
instructions

control

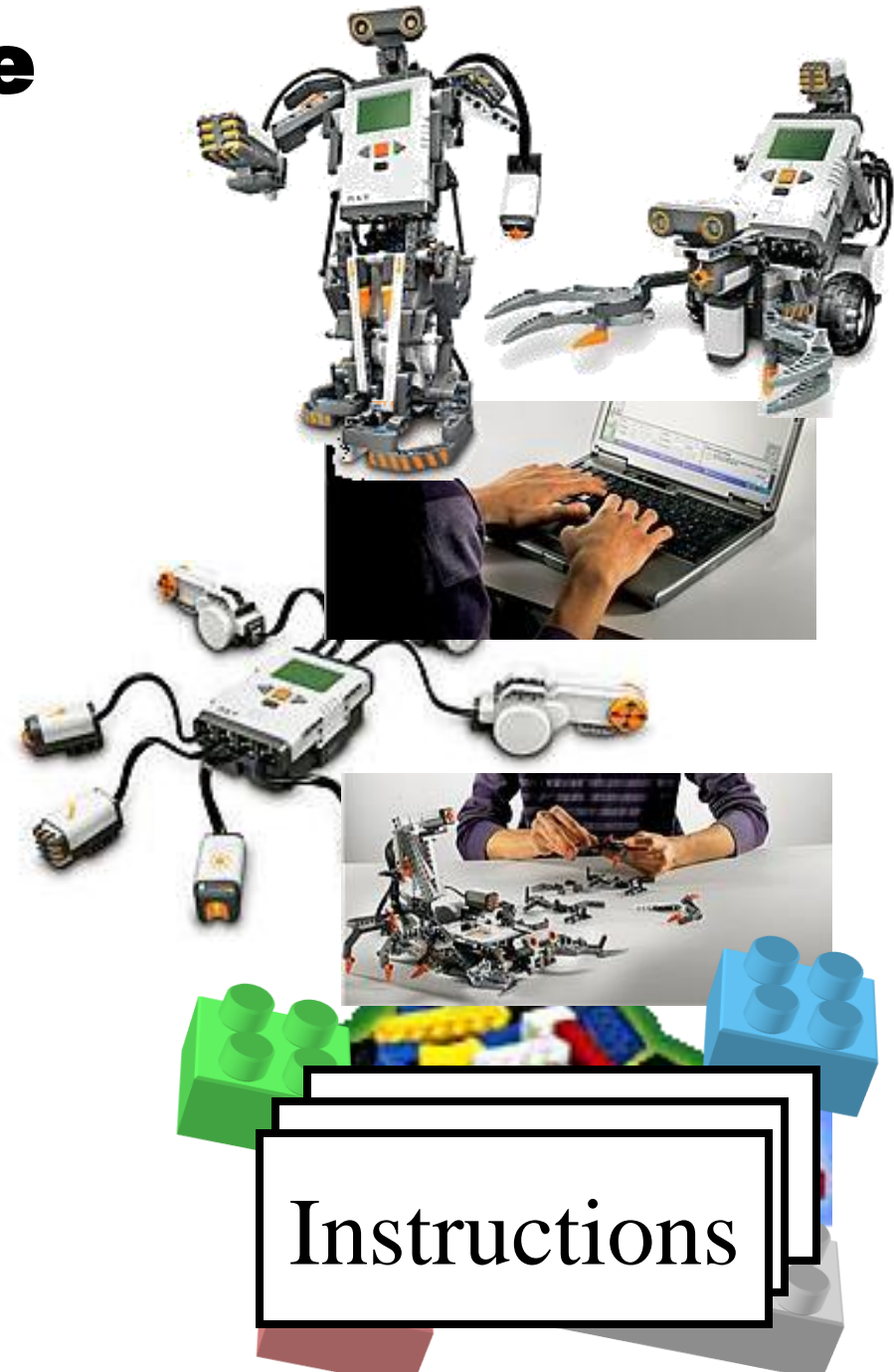
assembly



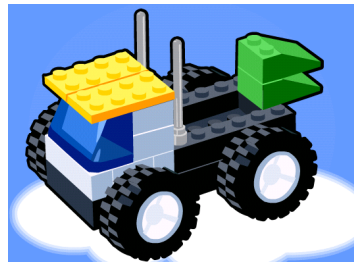
Robust yet fragile

Extremes of

- Robust yet fragile
- Simplicity and complexity
- Constrained and flexible
- Frozen and evolvable
- Digital and analog
- Diverse and conserved



Instructions



Lego hourglass



Diverse
toys

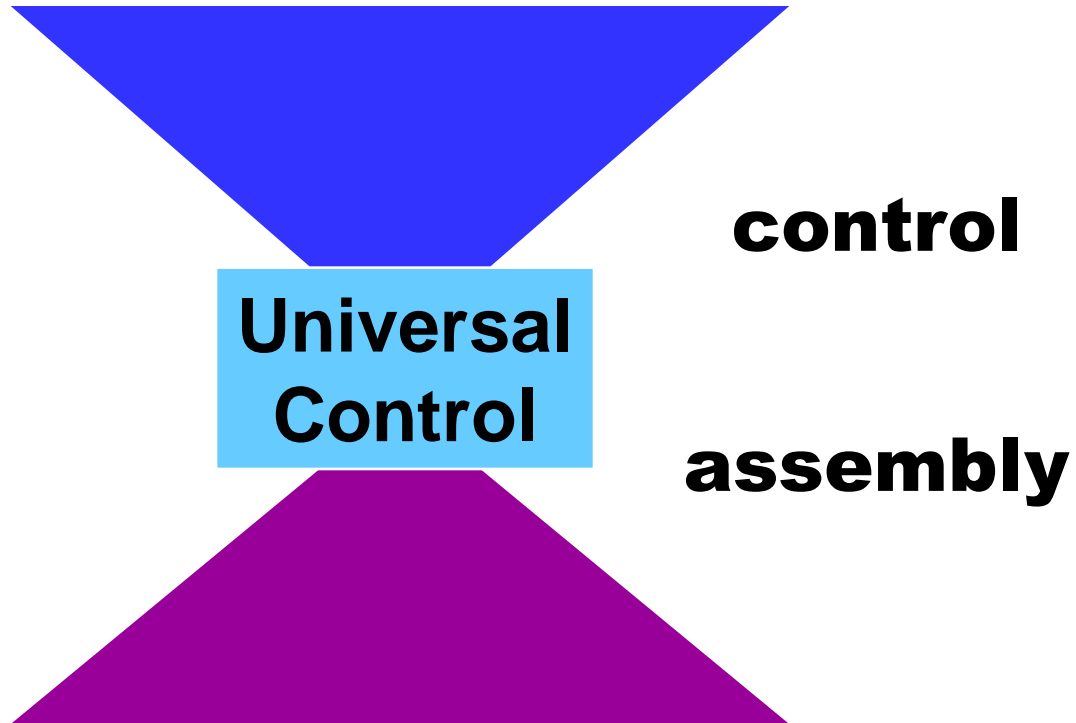
Lego hourglass

Diverse
instructions

Instructions



Lego hourglass



Lego hourglass

Huge variety



Standardized mechanisms
Highly conserved

control



assembly



Huge variety



Instructions

Lego

Huge variety

Limited environmental
uncertainty needs
minimal control

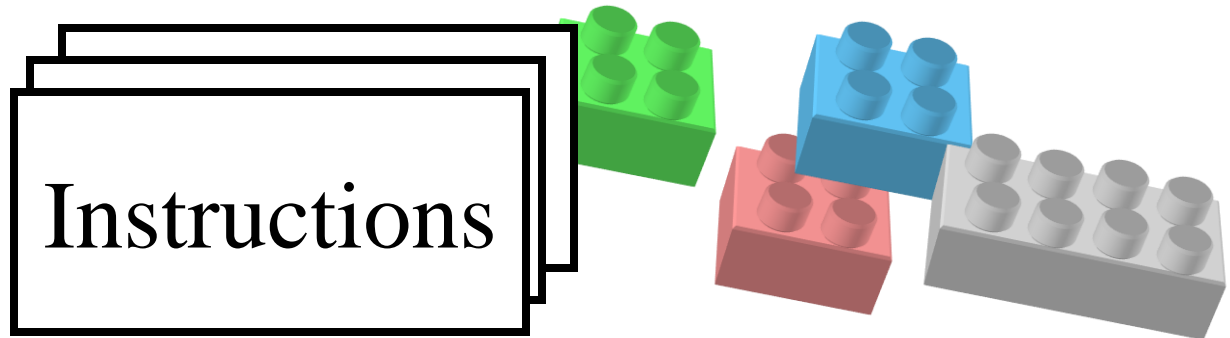


**Standard
assembly**



Huge variety

Instructions

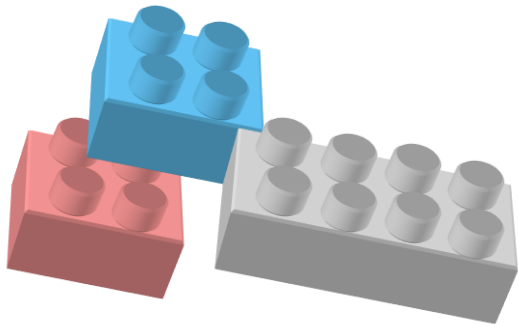
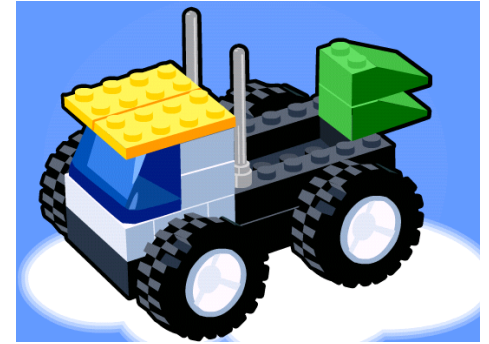


Diverse
toys

**Standard
assembly**

Diverse
instructions

Question: what is
the difference
between hourglass
and bowtie here?



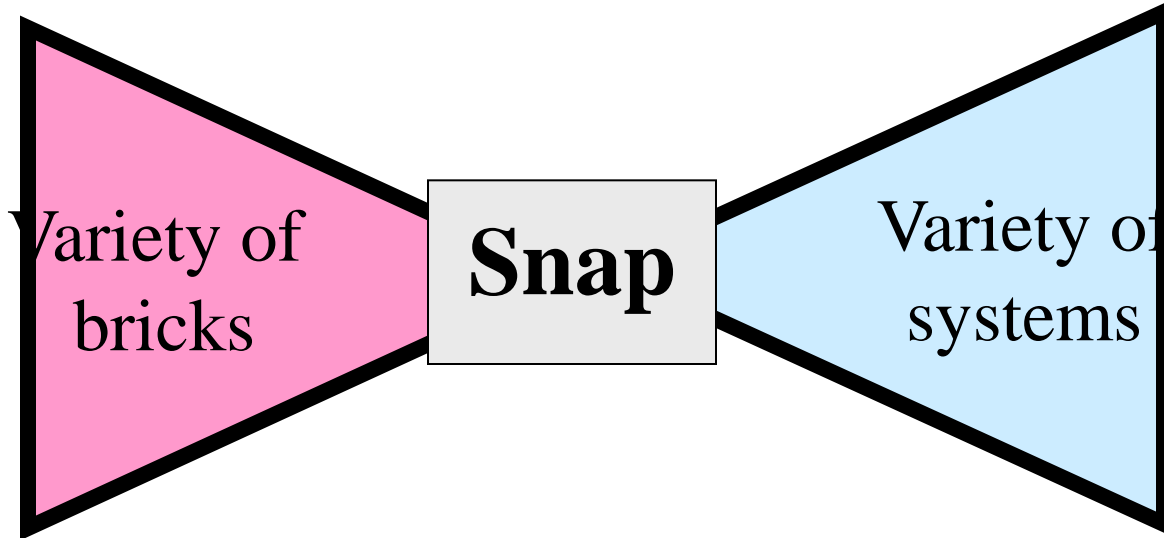
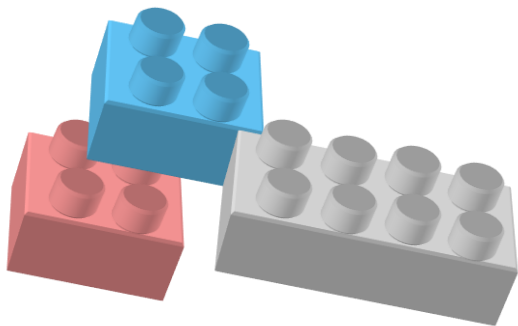
A “minimal” setting
to address this issue.

Variety of
bricks

Snap

Variety of
systems

The snap is a static interface specification.



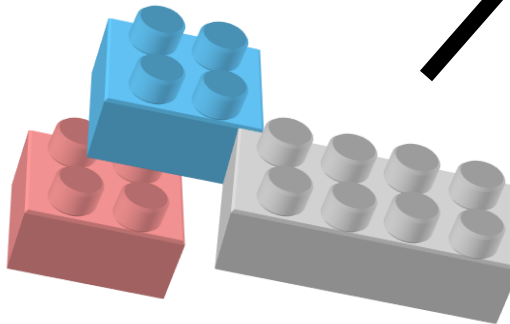
Diverse
toys

**Standard
assembly**

Diverse
instructions

Assembly is a
control process that
evolves in time, and
respects the snap,
but adds to it.

It inputs
instructions and
components and
outputs
assembled
systems.

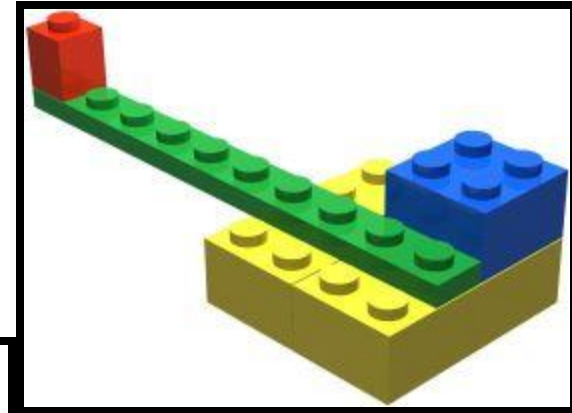
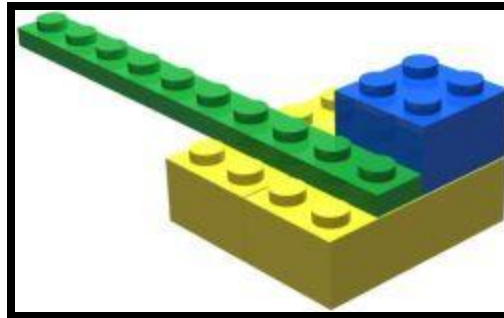
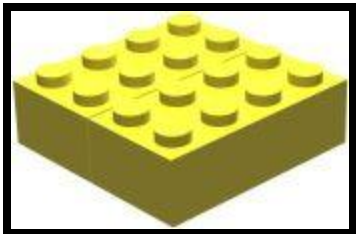
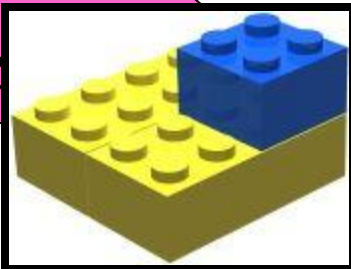


Instructions

Diverse
toys

**Standard
assembly**

Diverse
instruc

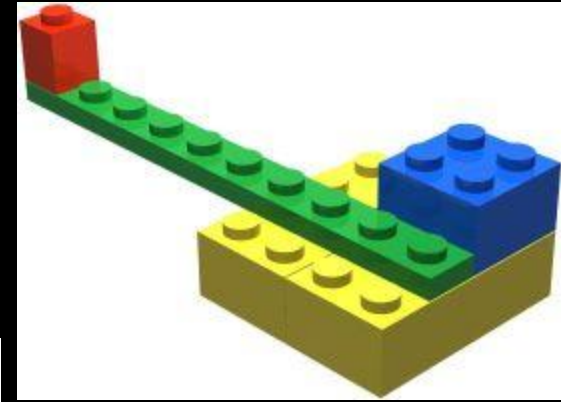
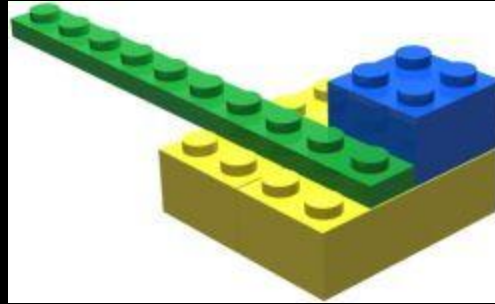
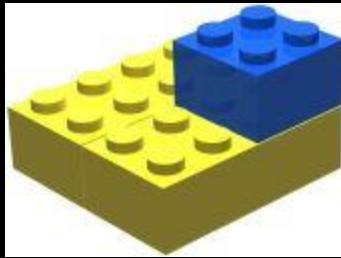
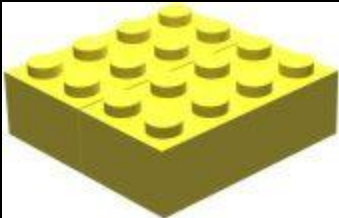


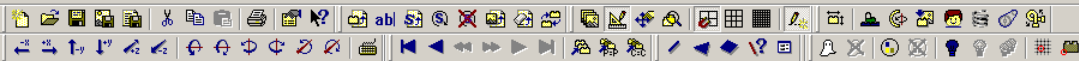
Variety of
bricks

Snap

Variety of
systems

Computer aided design tools



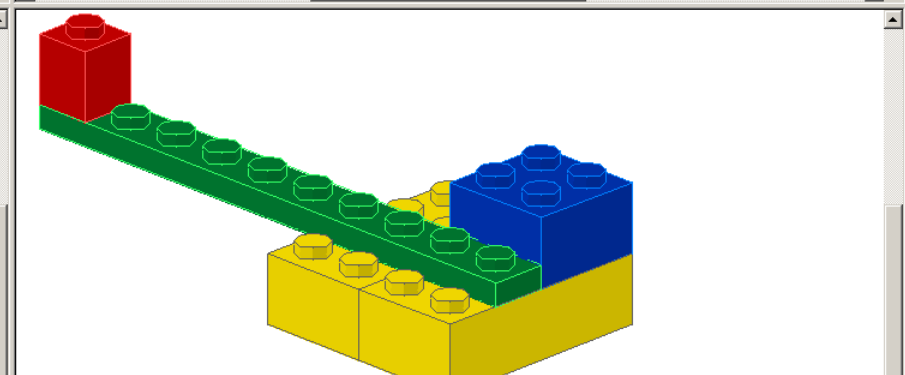
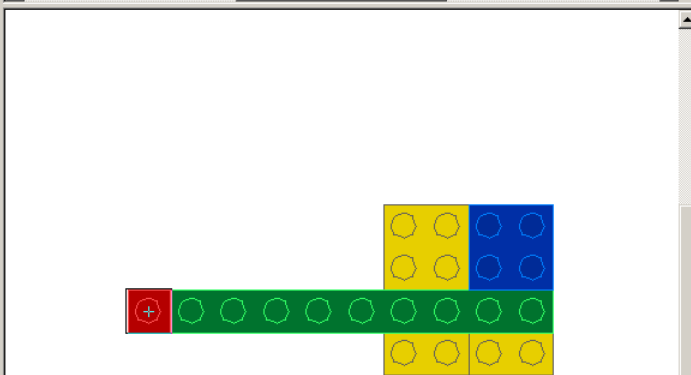
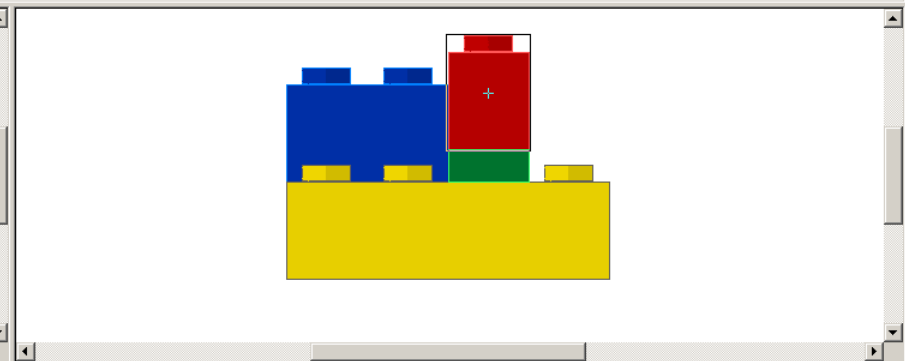
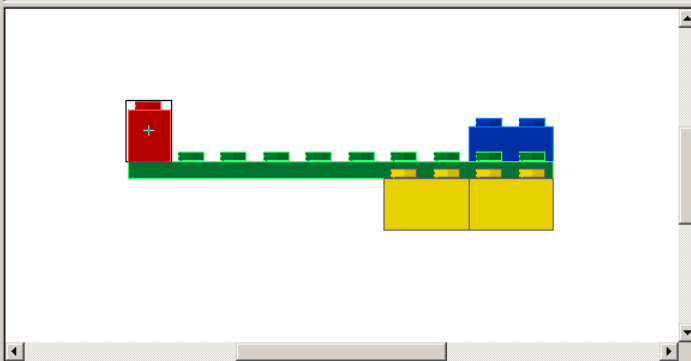
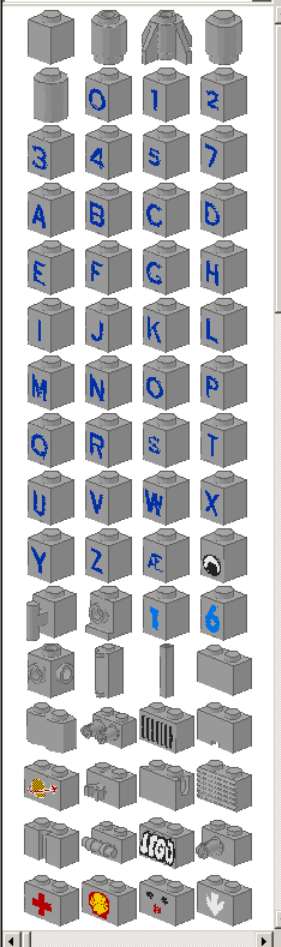


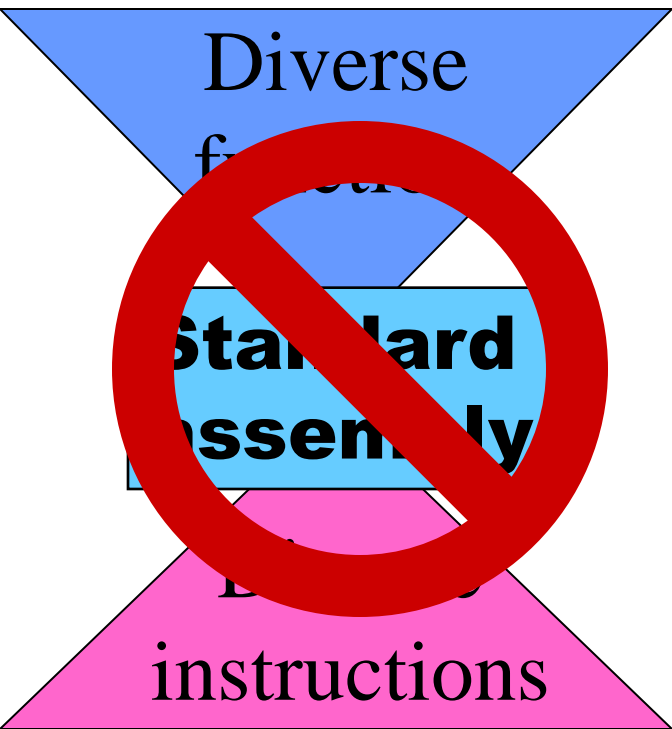
- Brick
- Baseplate
- Electric
- Technic
- Train
- Plate
- Other Parts
- Models
- Favorites
- Document

Active Model: bi-test.ldr

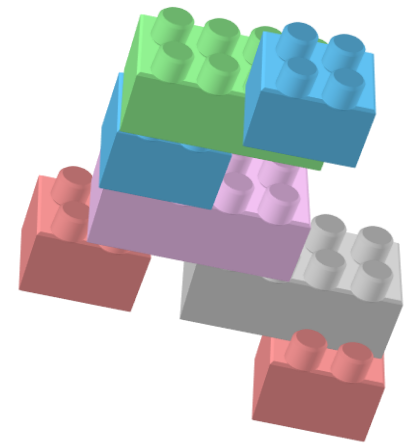
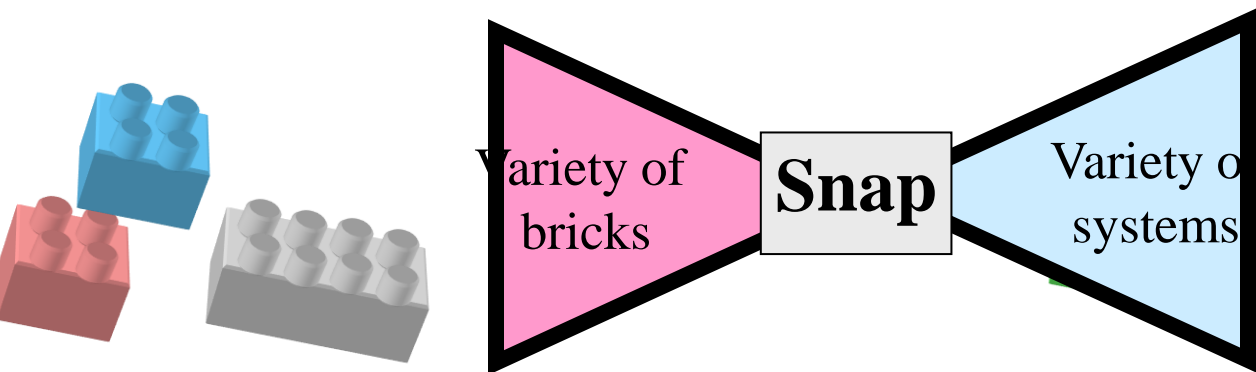
Type	Color	Position	Rotation	Part nr.	Description
COMM...	--	-----	-----	-----	Name: bi-test.ldr
COMM...	--	-----	-----	-----	Author: LDraw Help Desk
COMM...	--	-----	-----	-----	e-mail: help@ldraw.org
COMM...	--	-----	-----	-----	http://www.ldraw.org
COMM...	--	-----	-----	-----	File used for ldraw tutorial called:
COMM...	--	-----	-----	-----	An Introduction to Creating Building Instruction Images
COMM...	--	-----	-----	-----	Unofficial Model
PART	Yellow	0.000,0.000,50.000	0.000,0.000,1.000 0.000,1.000,0.000...	3001.DAT	Brick 2 x 4
PART	Yellow	-40.000,0.000,5.000	0.000,0.000,1.000 0.000,1.000,0.000...	3001.DAT	Brick 2 x 4
STEP	--	-----	-----	-----	
PART	Blue	0.000,-24.000,7.000	0.000,0.000,1.000 0.000,1.000,0.000...	3003.DAT	Brick 2 x 2
STEP	--	-----	-----	-----	
PART	Green	-80.000,-8.000,4.000	-1.000,0.000,0.000 0.000,1.000,0.000...	4477.DAT	Plate 1 x 10
STEP	--	-----	-----	-----	
PART	Red	-170.000,-32.000	-1.000,0.000,0.000 0.000,1.000,0.000...	3005.DAT	Brick 1 x 1

Brick





Random, uncontrolled,
snap connection of
Lego parts yields
“nonfunctional” toys.



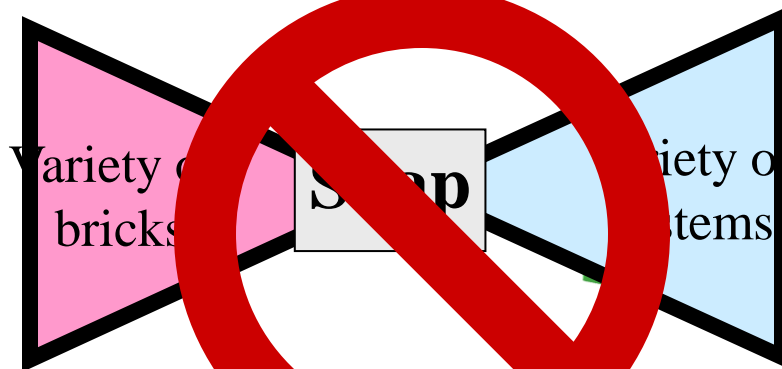
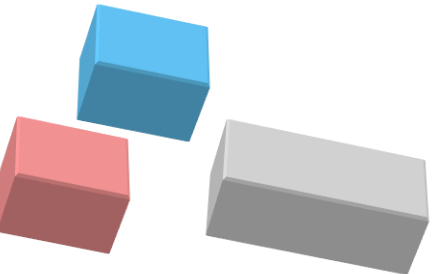
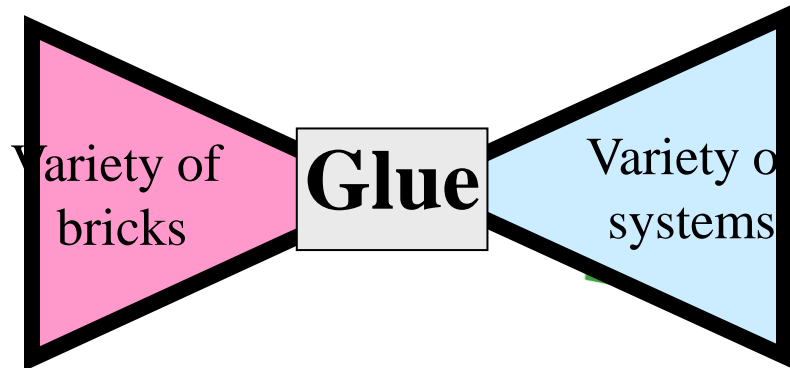
Diverse
function

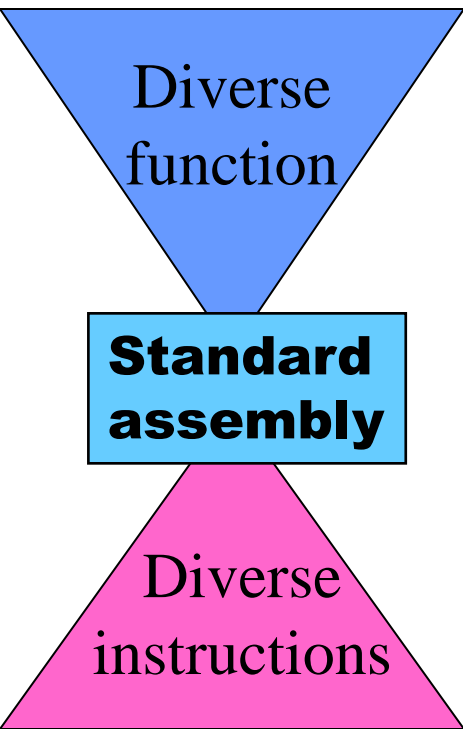
**Standard
assembly**

Diverse
instructions



Loss of reuse, gain in robustness.

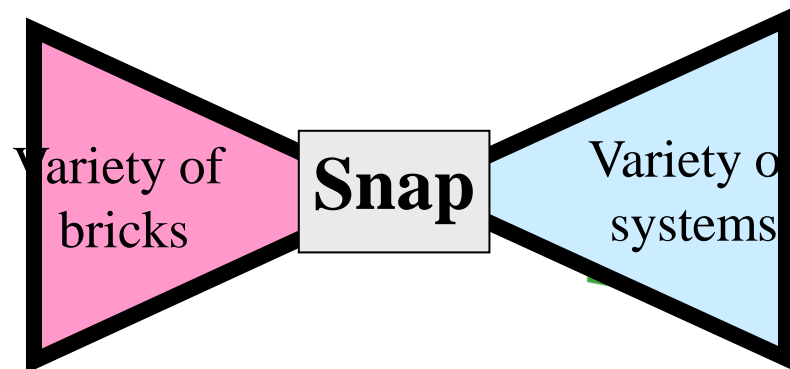
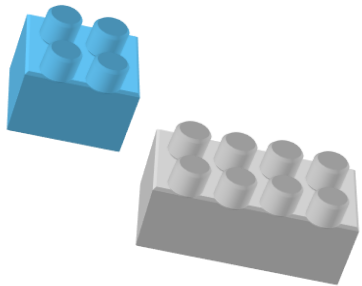


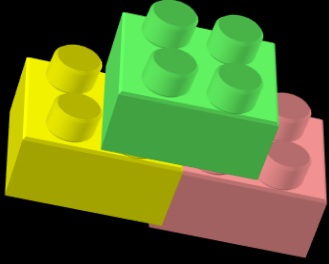


Robustness/ Evolvability



- A huge variety of new and different toys can be built
- From a huge variety of different components
- Both toys and components can be rearranged and added in new ways
- Yet fragile?



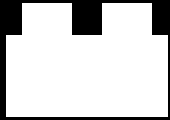
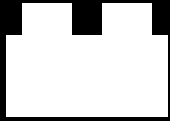


Yet fragile

- Add or remove a tiny, indistinguishable amount of material from either side of a key interface.
- → *Complete failure.*
- Other parts of the bricks may be nicked or cut with minimal impact
- This robust, yet fragile (RYF) feature of protocols is a candidate for a universal law
- “Layering” hides the snap in an assembly
- What robustness/fragility properties do alternative protocols have?

Lego *system* requirements

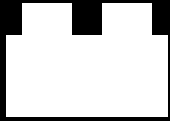
	Alternative designs?			
Performance				
Trauma				
Allowed connections				
Reuse				
Evolvable parts				
Evolvable systems				
Labor cost				
Parts cost				



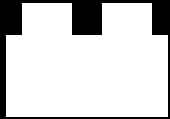
Consider some
alternative interfaces
and their tradeoffs...



No interface. Simple blocks.



Standard interface. (Wild type.)



Glue

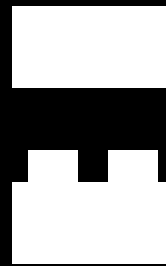


Add glue to hold the parts together.



Injection mold the whole toy from scratch.

↑ better
↓ worse



	Smooth	WT	Glue	Mold
Performance	↓	---	---	↑↑
Trauma	↓↓	---	↑	↑↑
Allowed connections	↑↑	---	---	↓↓
Reuse	---	---	↓↓	↓↓
Evolvable parts	↓	---	---	↓
Evolvable systems	↓↓	---	---	↓
Labor cost	↓	---	↓	↓↓
Parts cost	↑	---	↓	↑

- Lego is “optimally robust” (Pareto) not “optimal.”
- Similar to complex engineering systems and biology.

↑ better
↓ worse

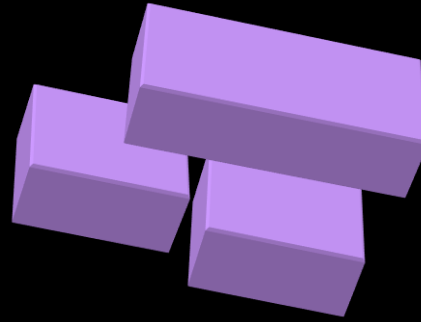


Glue

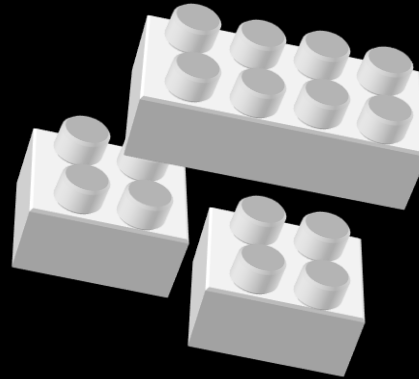


	Smooth	WT	Glue	Mold
Performance	↓	---	---	↑↑
Trauma	↓↓	---	↑	↑↑
Allowed connections	↑↑	---	---	↓↓
Reuse	---	---	↓↓	↓↓
Evolvable parts	↓	---	---	↓
Evolvable systems	↓↓	---	---	↓
Labor cost	↓	---	↓	↓↓
Parts cost	↑	---	↓	↑

Fragility: Perturbing the snap connector?



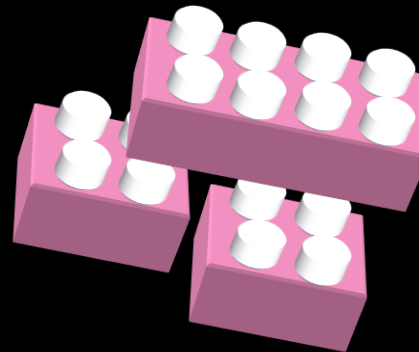
Smooth is
robust



WT is *very*
fragile



No connections,
no fragility

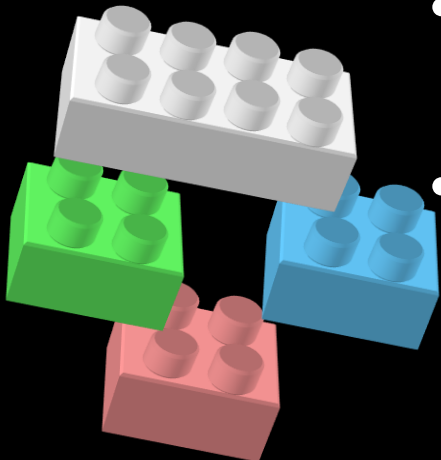
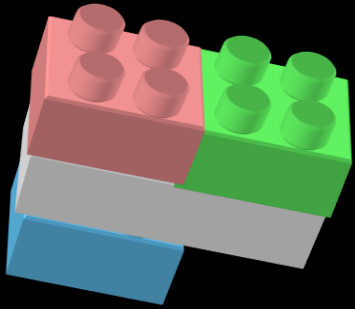


Glued is
less fragile

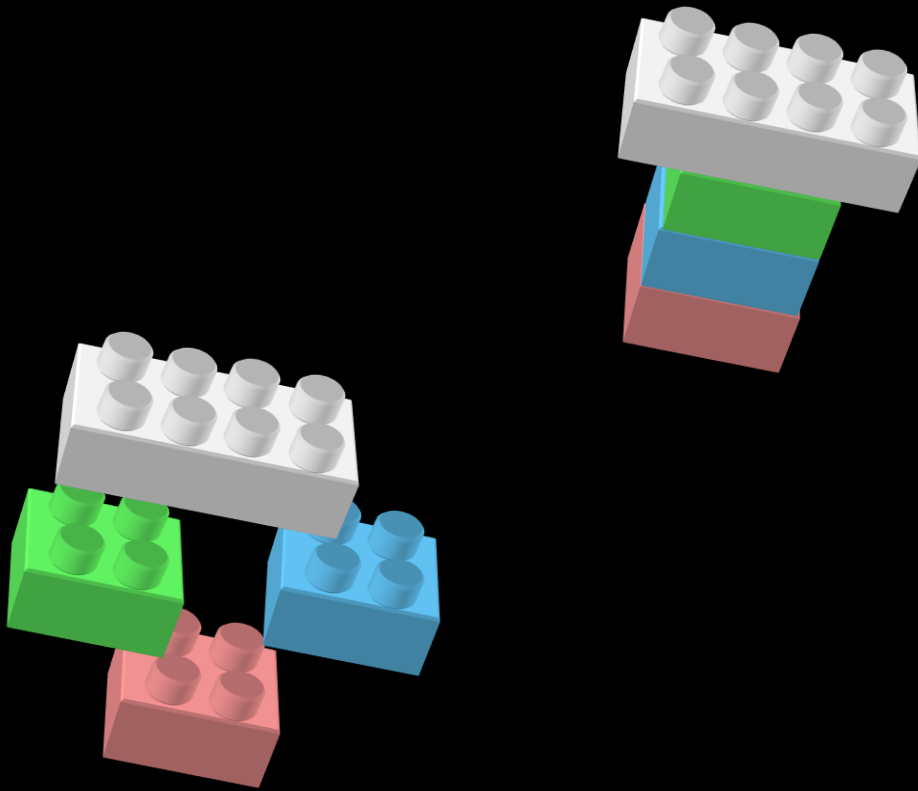


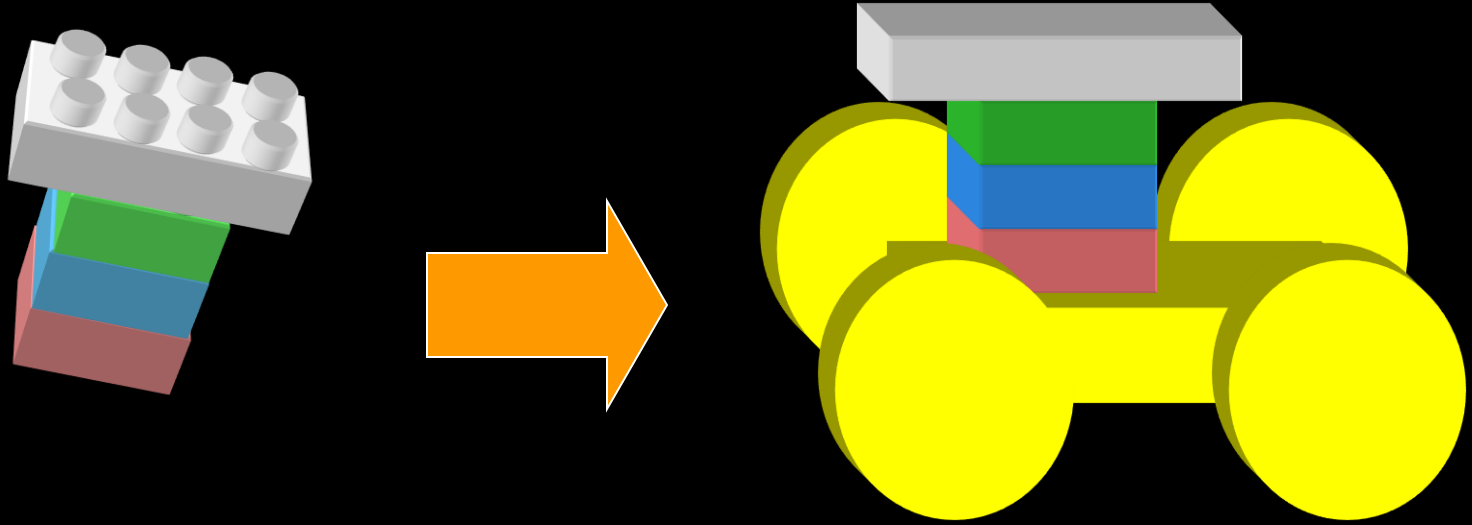
Robust or fine-tuned?

- Set of all possible interconnections is a (combinatorial) huge set.
- Set of interesting toys is also large, but an infinitesimally small subset. Very special and finely tuned.
- Similarly, among the potential toy *systems architectures* using the same plastic material, Lego is highly structured and finely tuned.
- At the component level, the stud-and-tube coupling is very finely machined.
- Robust yet fragile (RYF) is universal in complex engineering and biology



The evolution of complexity



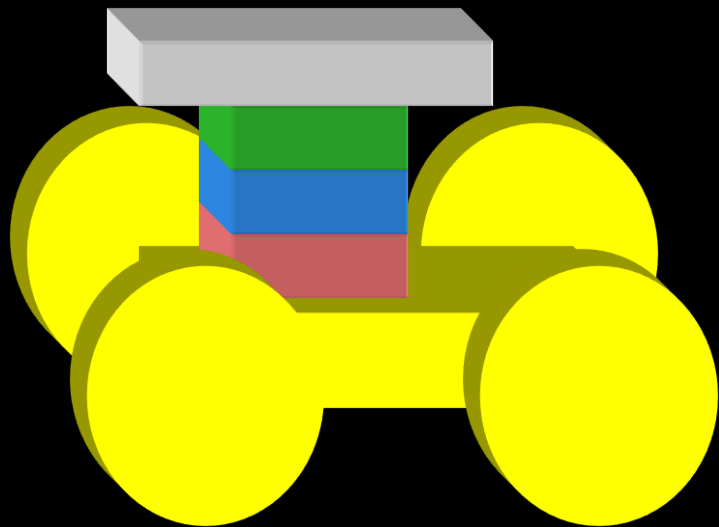
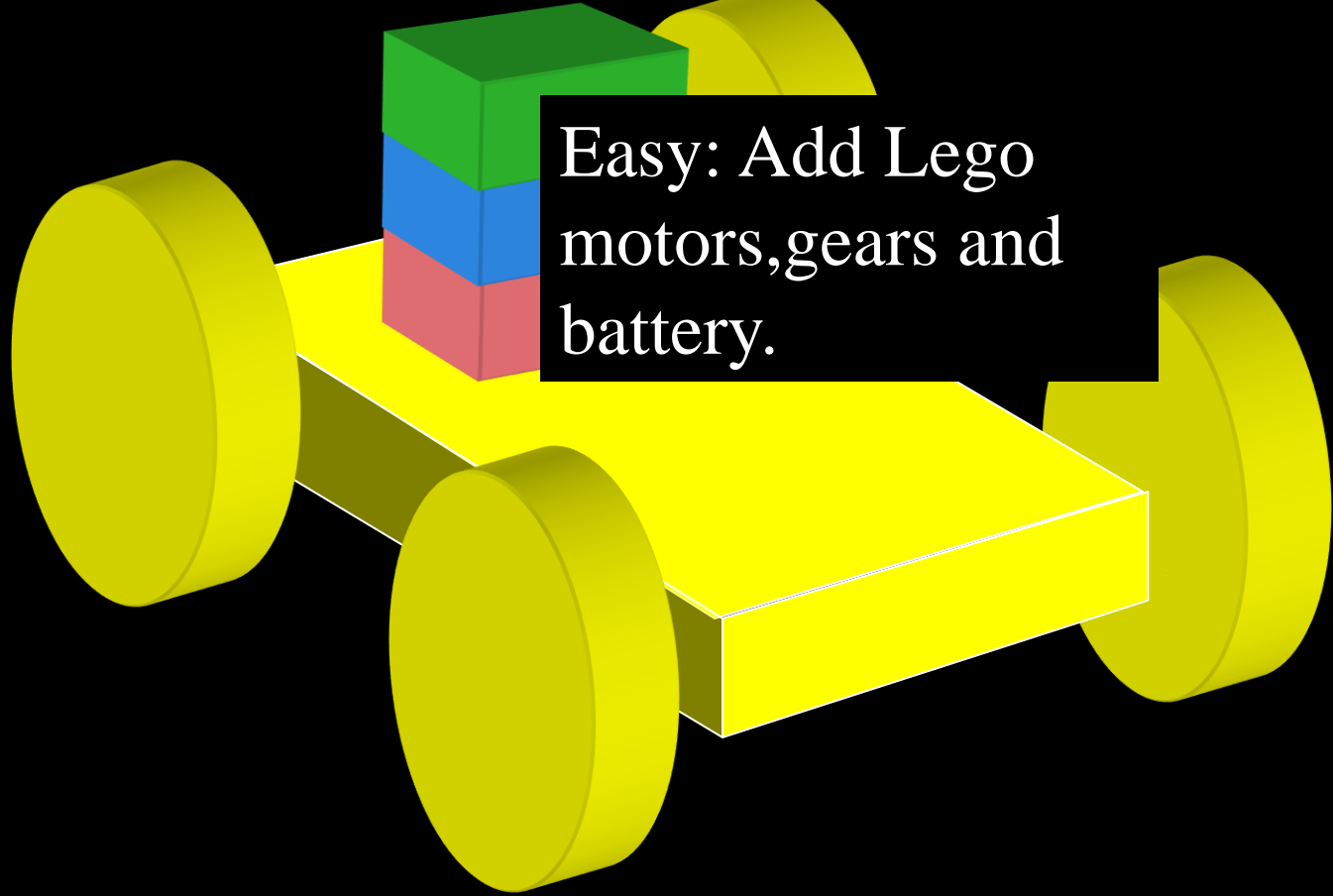


Suppose you want to put a structure on wheels?

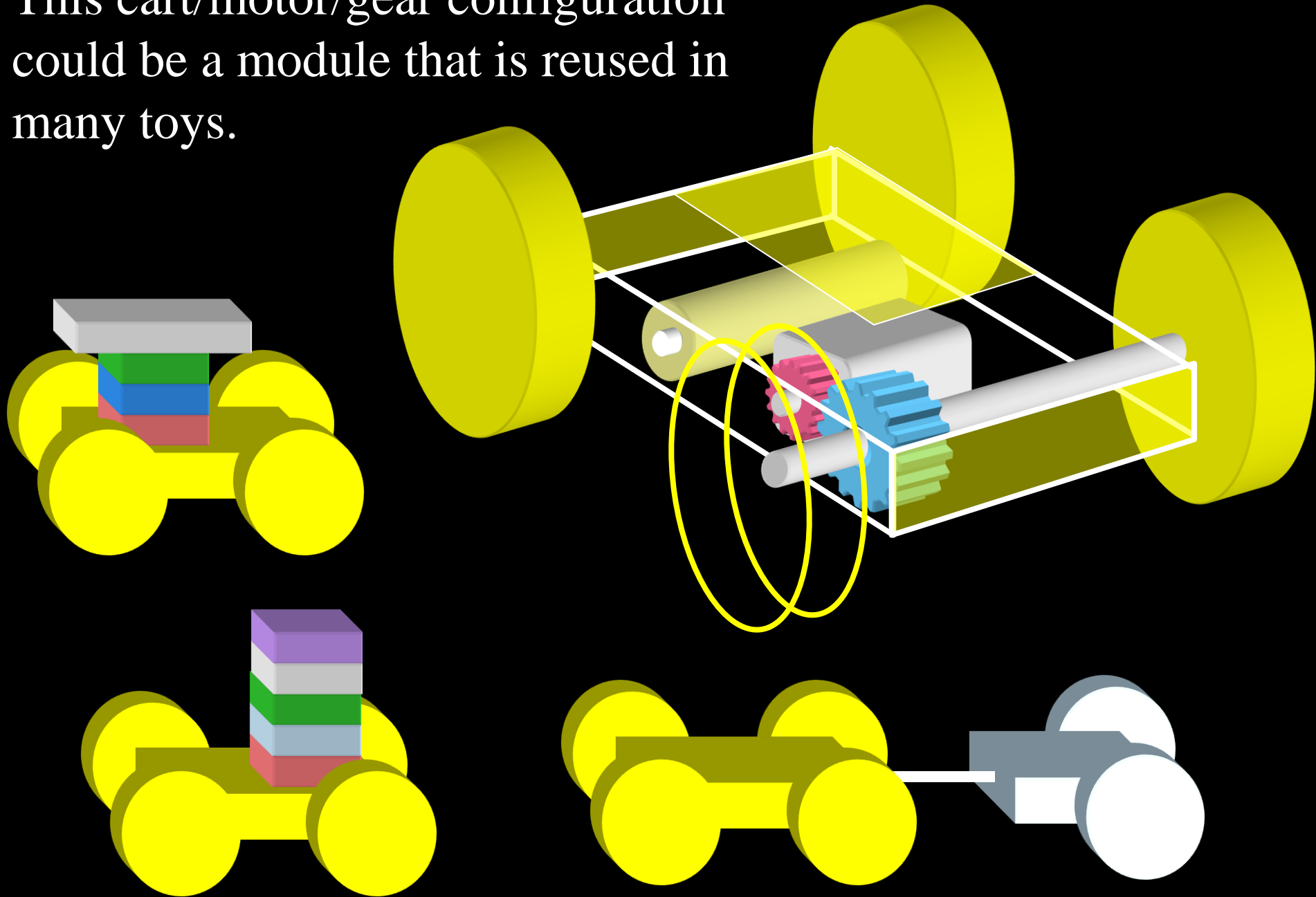
Easy: Find Lego parts with wheels.

Suppose you want
to motorize a
vehicle with
wheels?

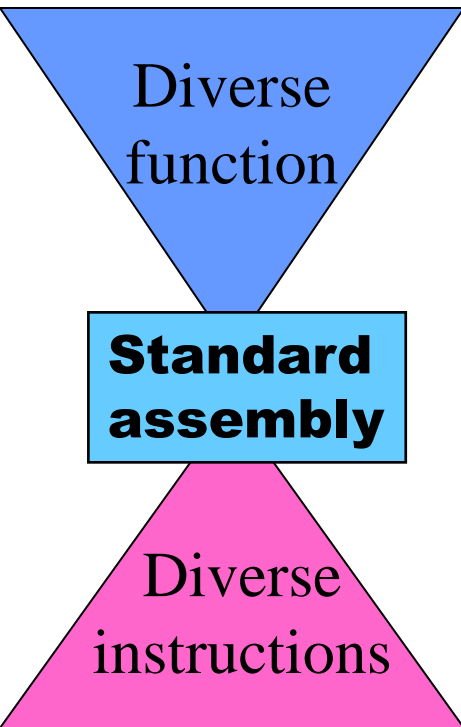
Easy: Add Lego
motors, gears and
battery.



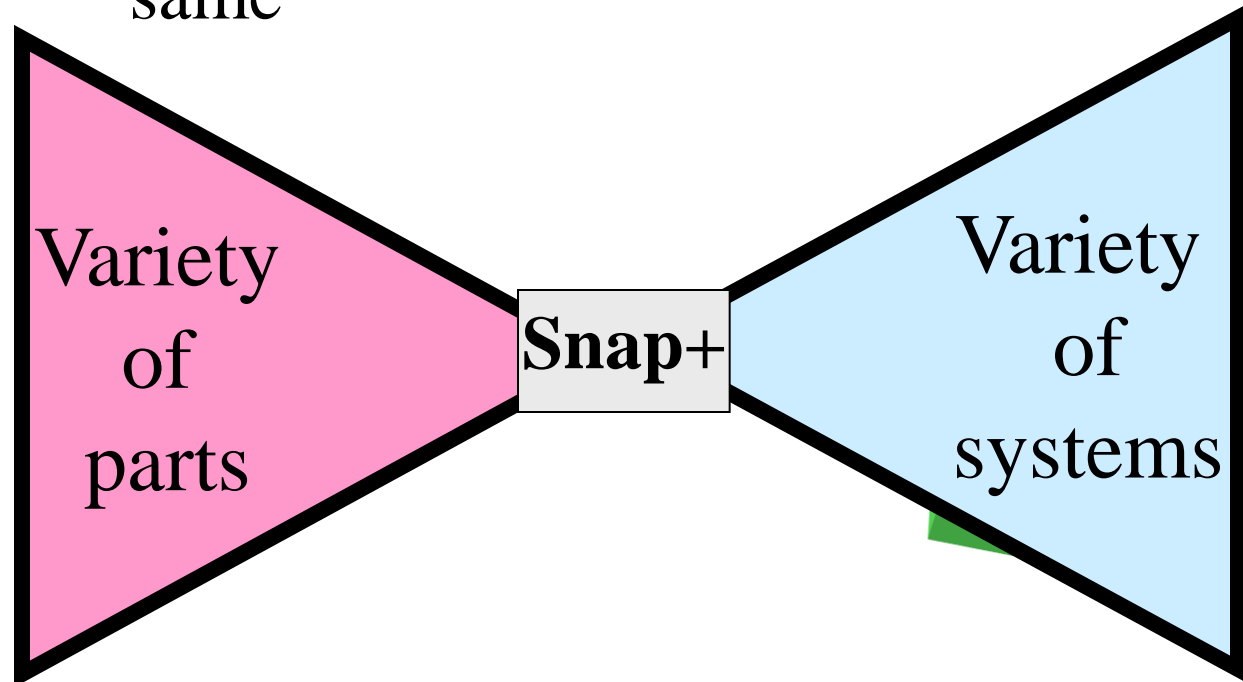
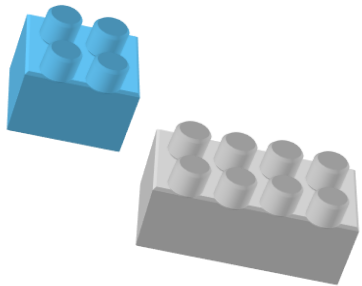
This cart/motor/gear configuration could be a module that is reused in many toys.



Evolvability



- The snap/brick can be augmented with additional parts and interfaces
- Assembly remains essentially the same



Complex toys can be created,
and require additional layers
of control.



Variety of
parts

Snap+

Variety of
systems



Lego hourglass



**Uncertain
environments**

Require additional layers

control



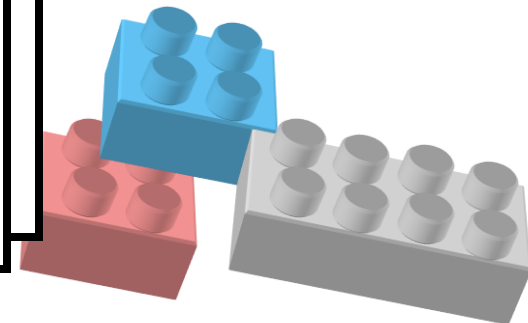
assembly



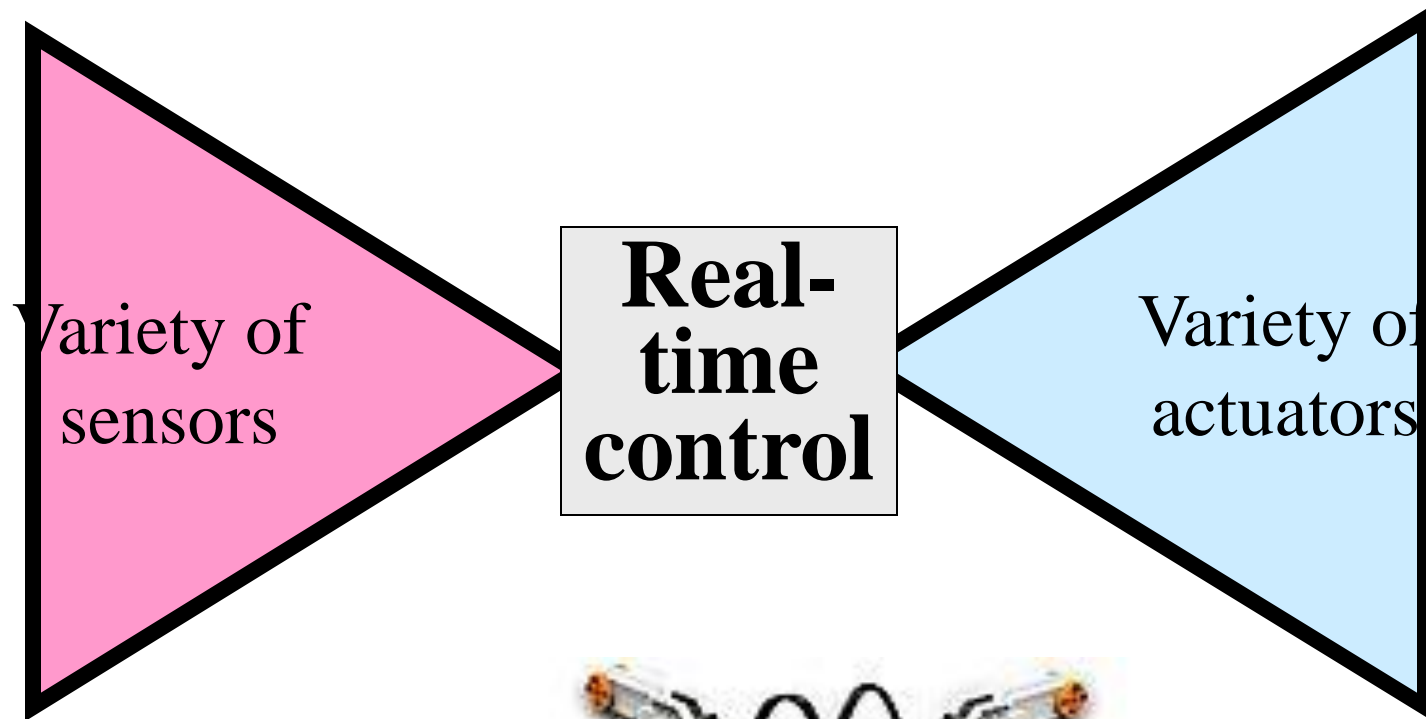
Huge variety



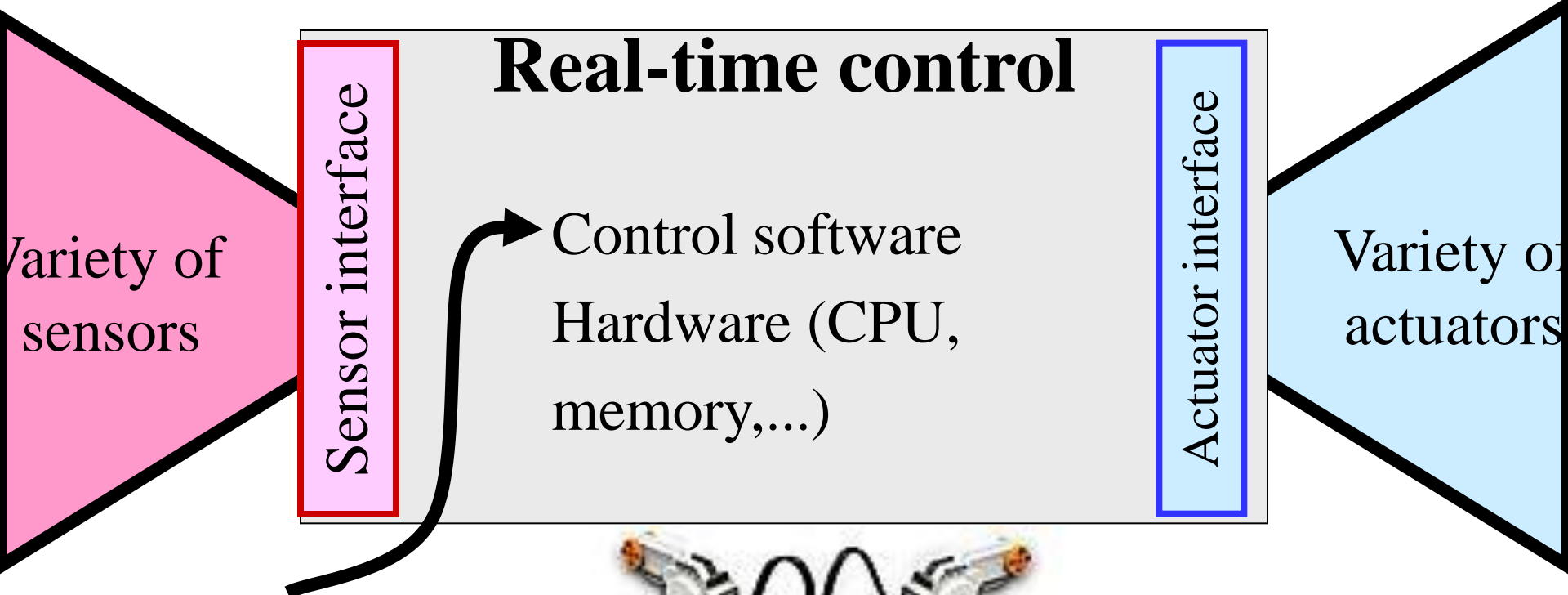
Instructions



NXT controller



NXT controller



fan-in
of diverse
inputs

universal
carriers

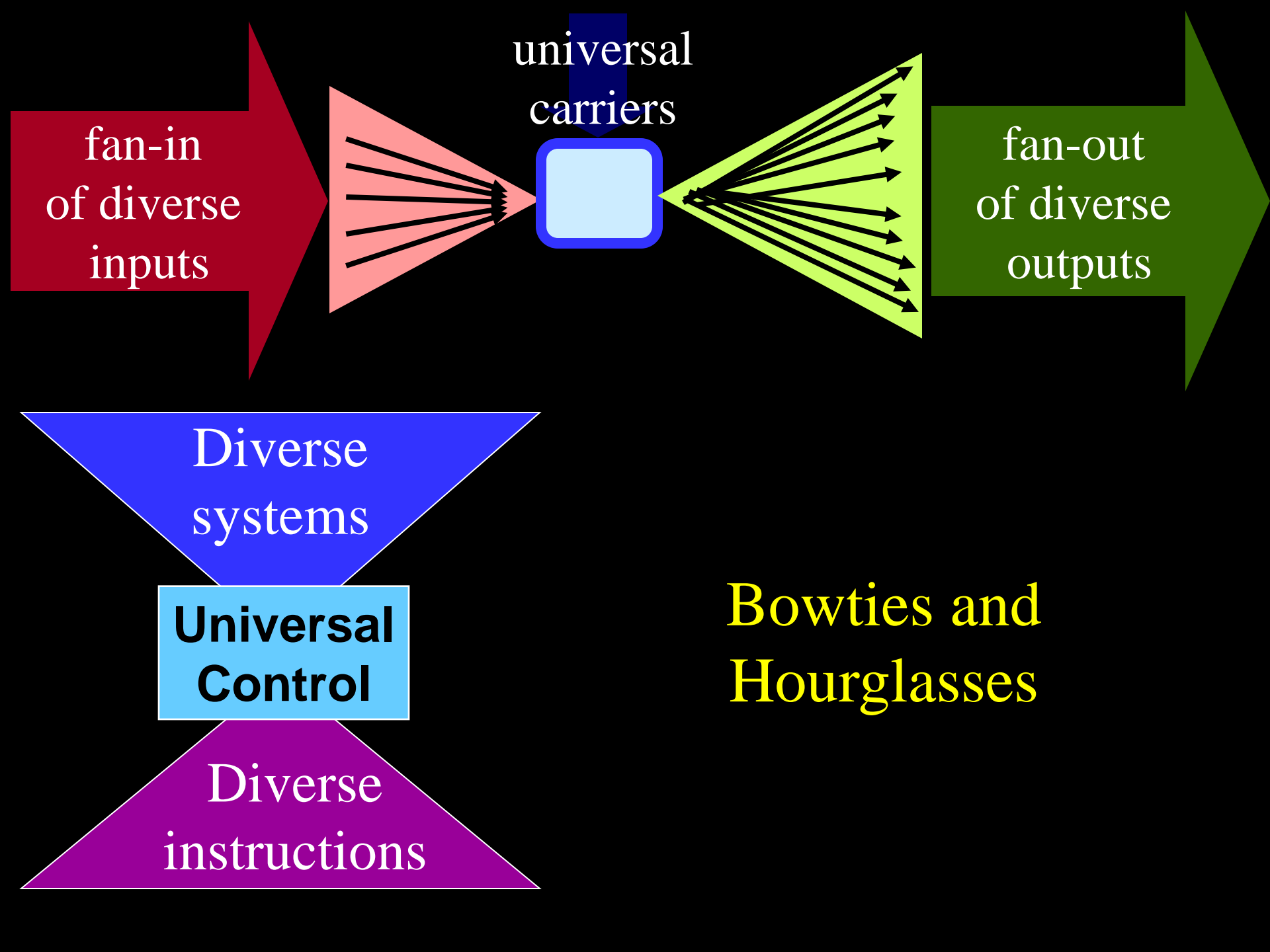
fan-out
of diverse
outputs

Diverse
systems

**Universal
Control**

Diverse
instructions

**Bowties and
Hourglasses**



Variety of
sensors

Control

Variety of
actuators

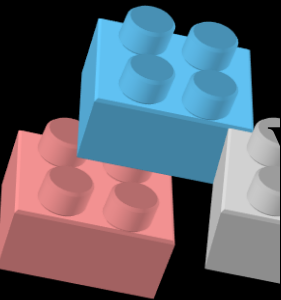


Lego Bowties

Variety of
bricks

Snap

Variety of
systems



Most complexity is
in digital hardware
and software.

Complexity



protocols

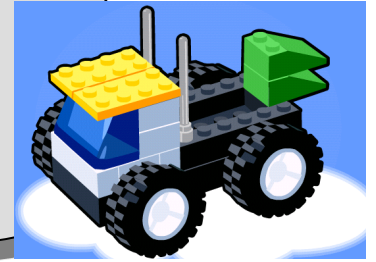
structure

+wheels

+motor

+controls

Variety



control



assembly

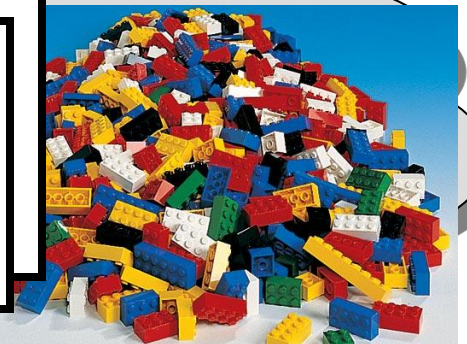


**Lego
hourglass**

Variety



Instructions



Variety

Robust



**Yet
fragile
?**



Variety

Real-time control

Control software
Hardware (CPU,
memory,...)

Variety of
sensors

Interface

Interface

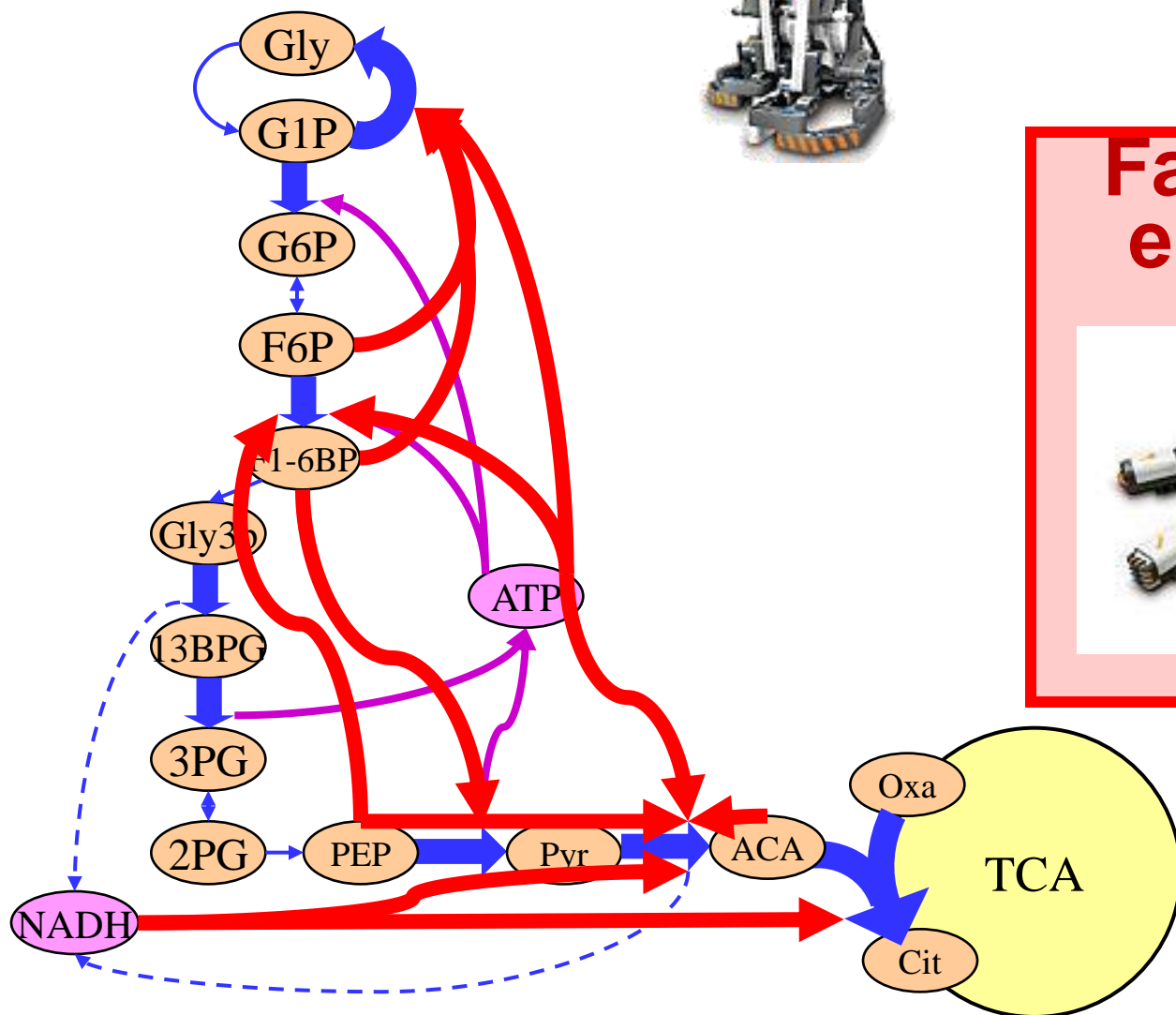
Variety of
actuators

Complexity



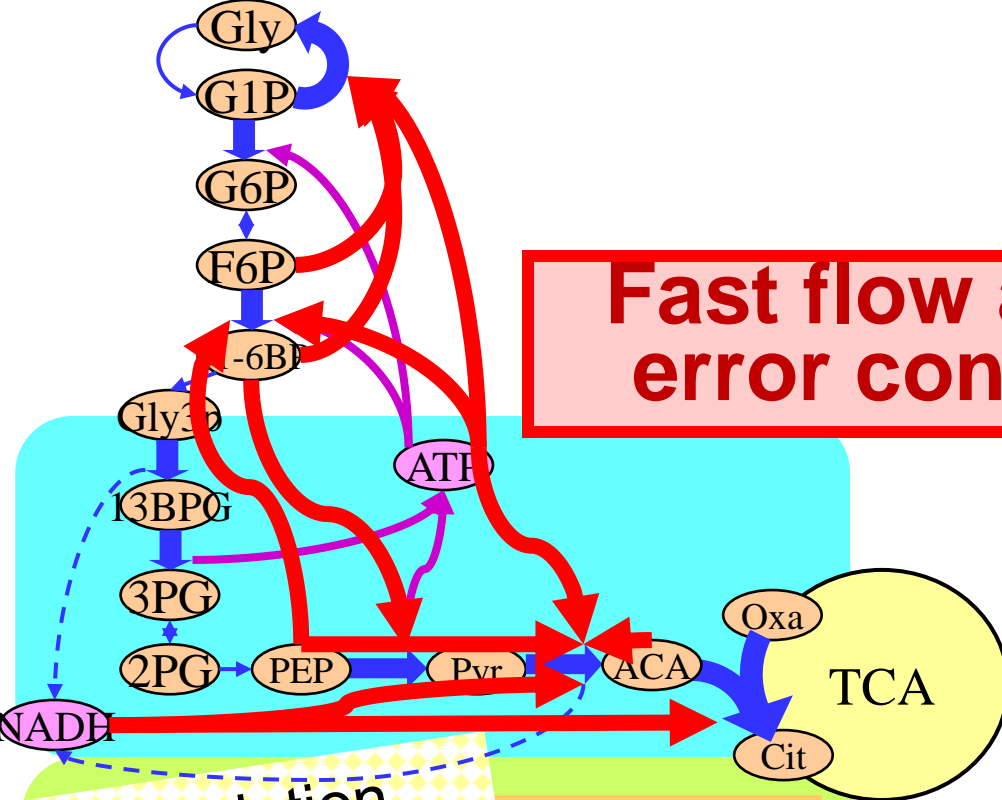
**Yet
fragile?**



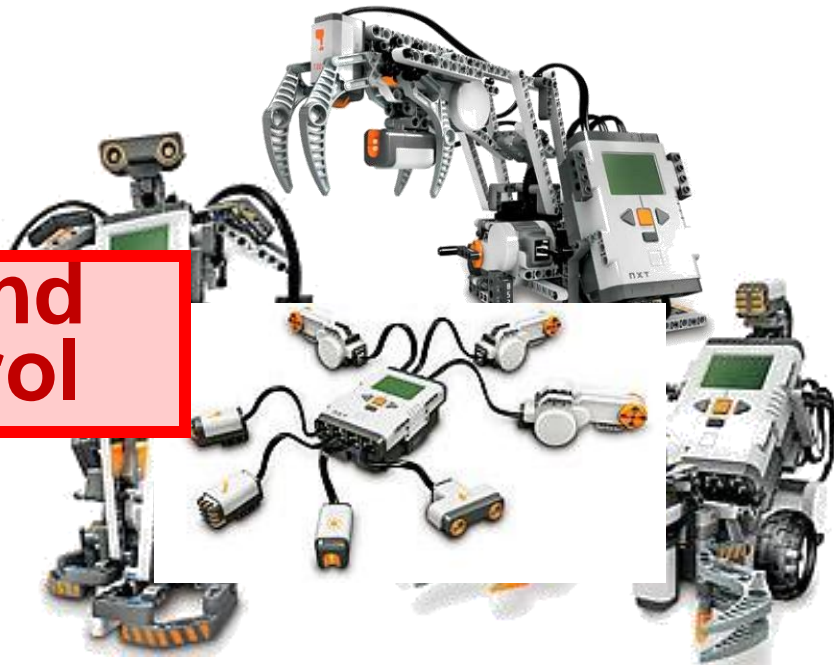


**Fast flow and
error control**





Fast flow and error control



Translation Reactions

Flow/error

RNA level

assembly

Transcription Reactions

Flow/error

DNA level

Instructions



**For a
single
toy**



Lego hourglass

Complexity

control



assembly



Instructions

Toy *system*

Huge variety
of toys

Lego hourglass



control



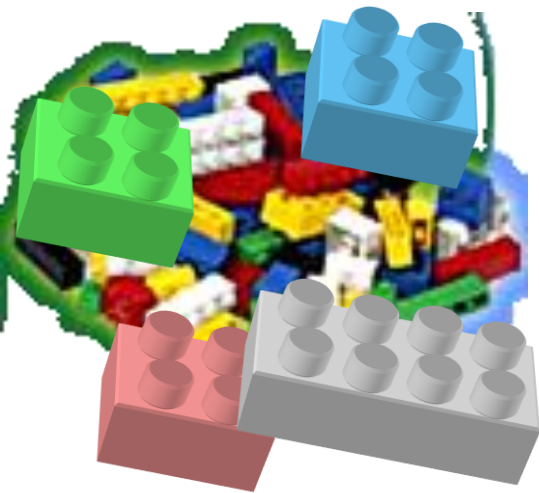
assembly



Huge variety
of instructions



Building
blocks



General
purpose

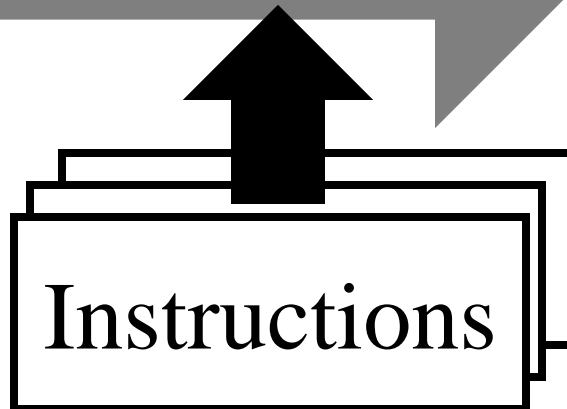


assembly



Quantized/
digital

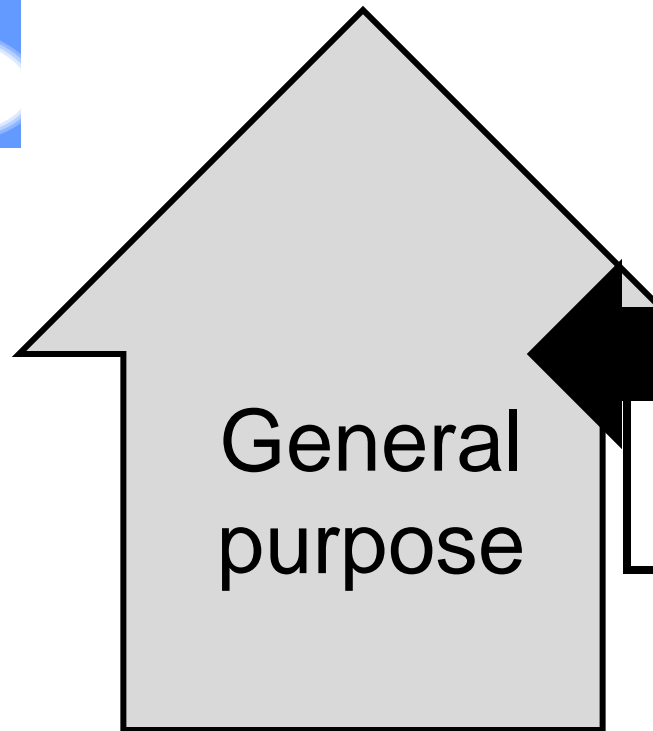
Instructions



Each step uses general purpose machines



Assembly

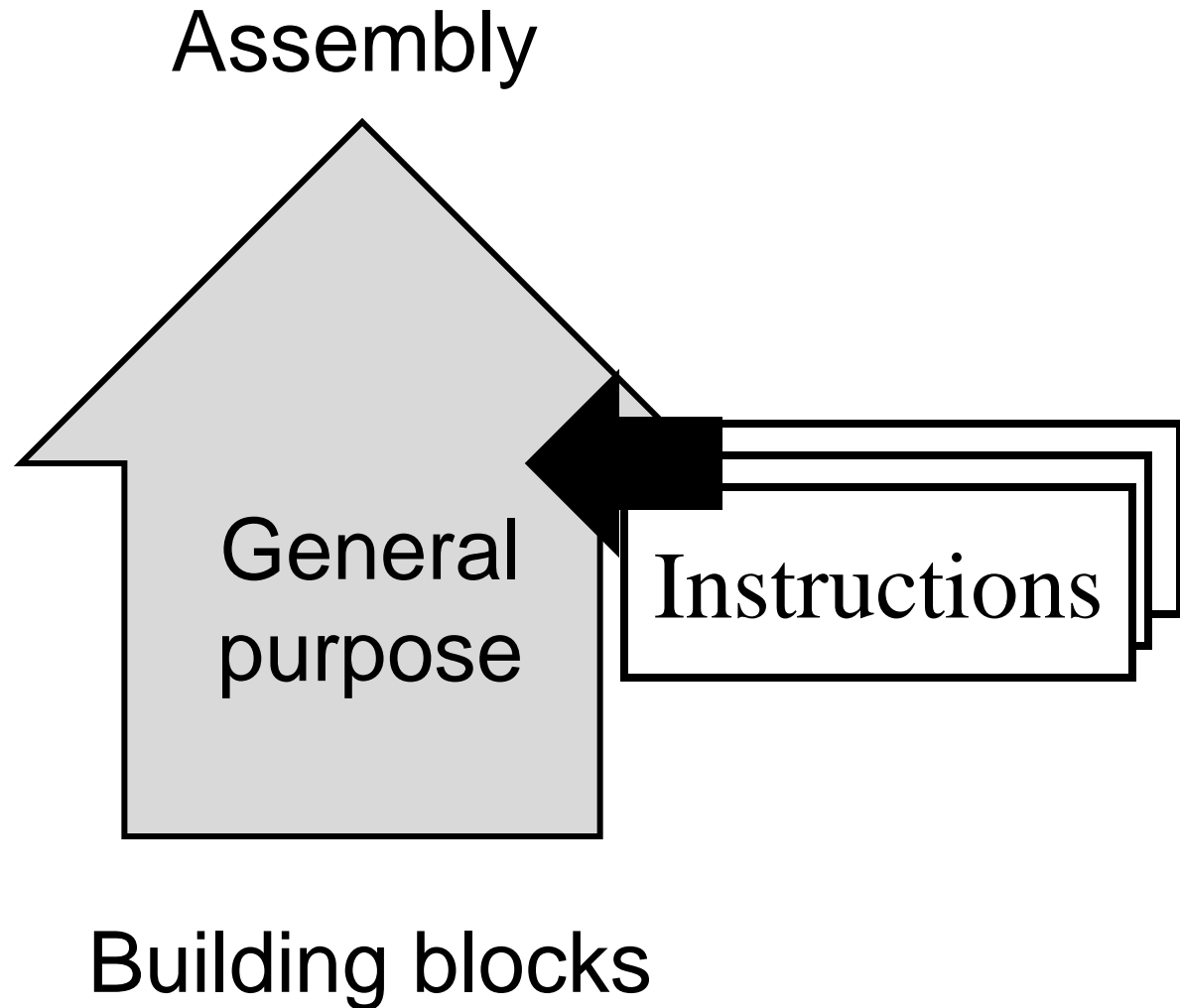
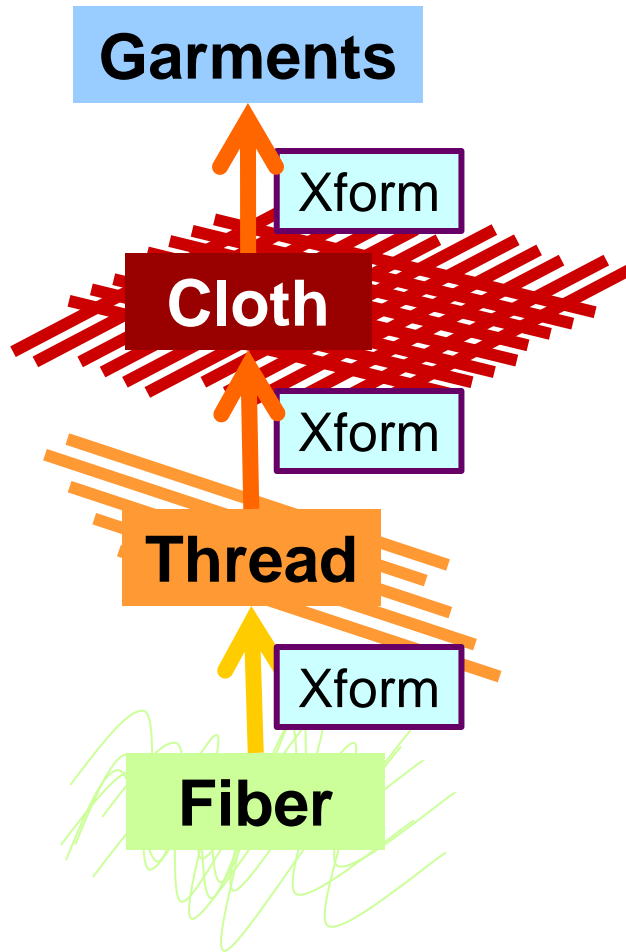


Instructions

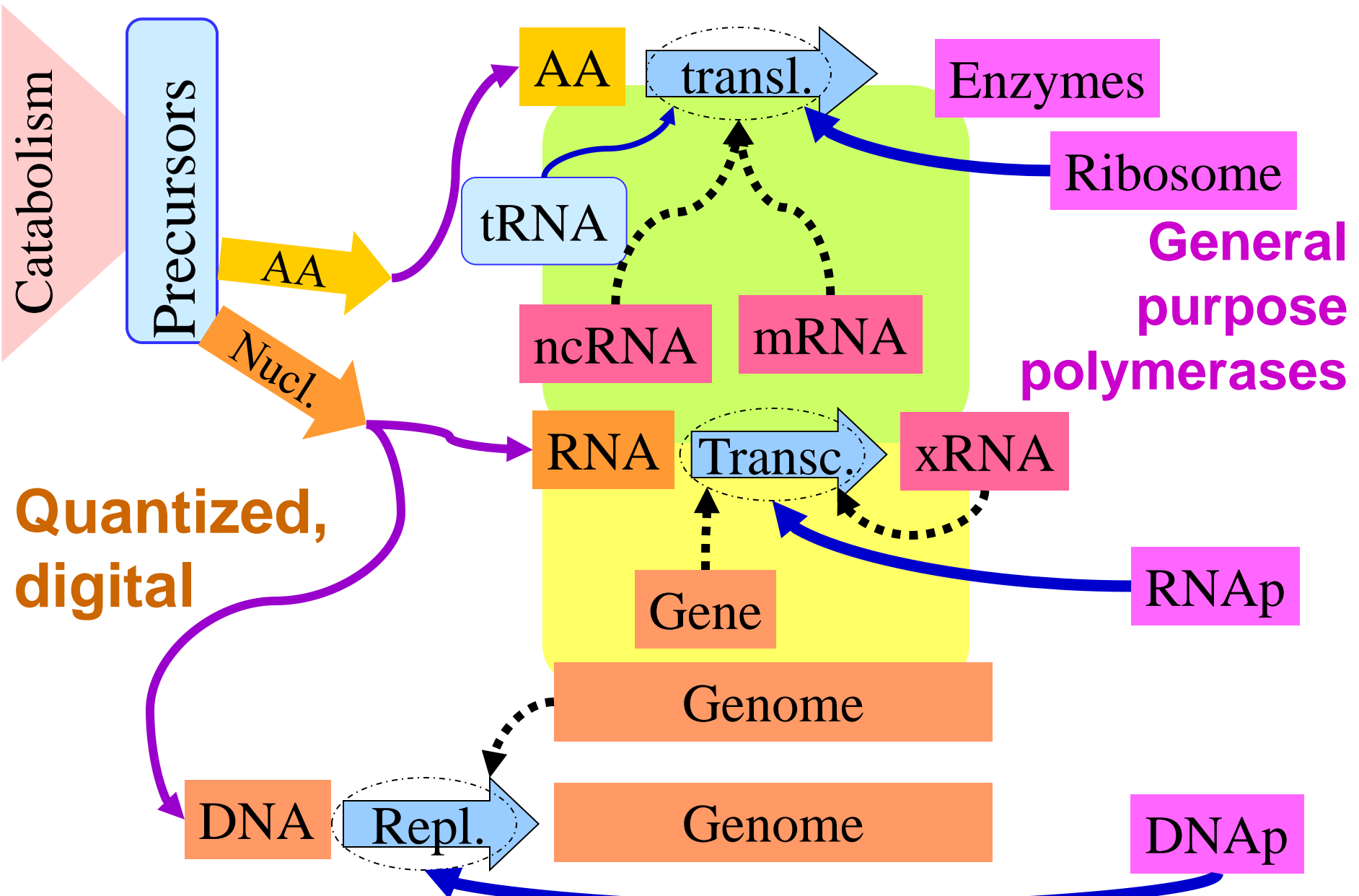


Building blocks

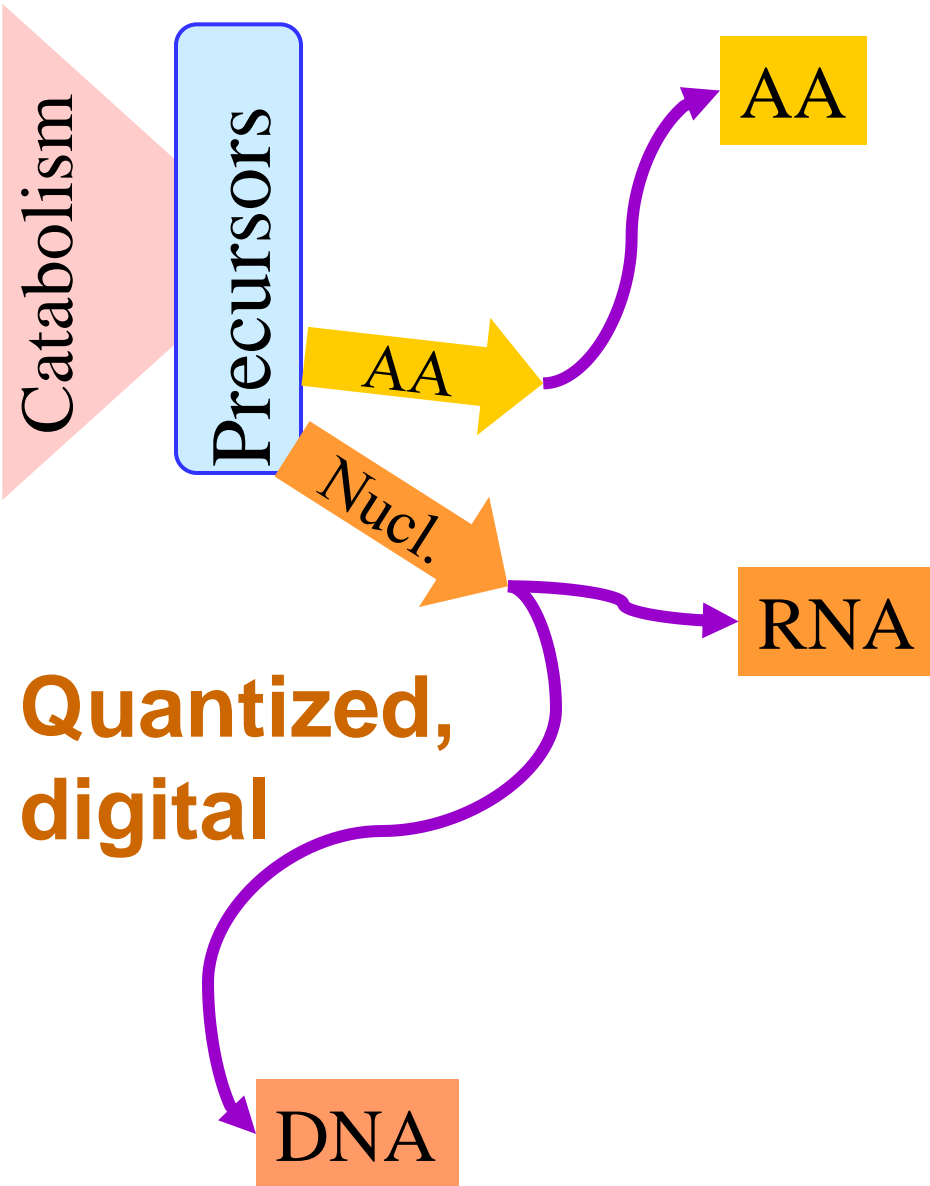
Each step uses general purpose machines



Lower layers



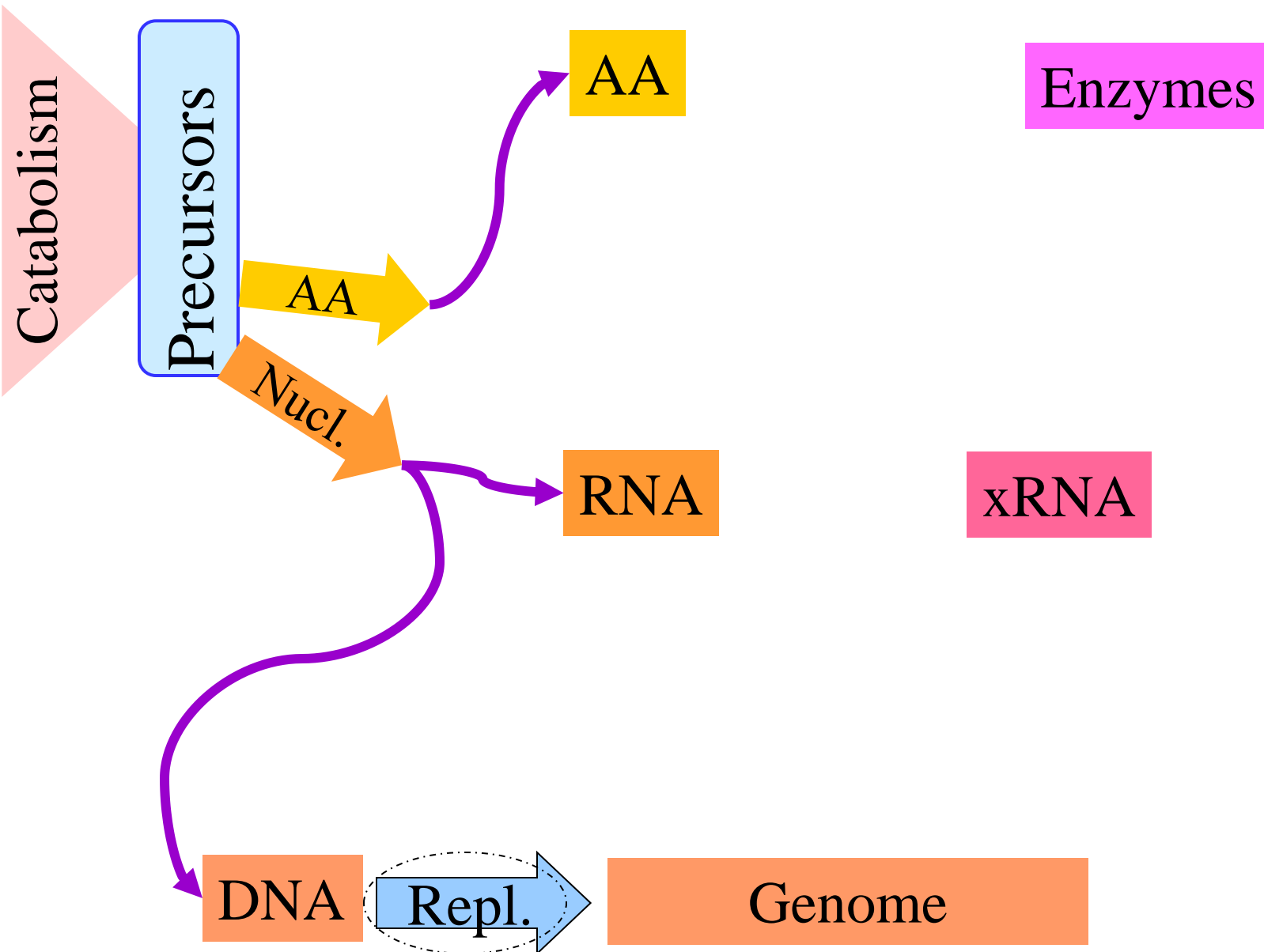
Lower layers

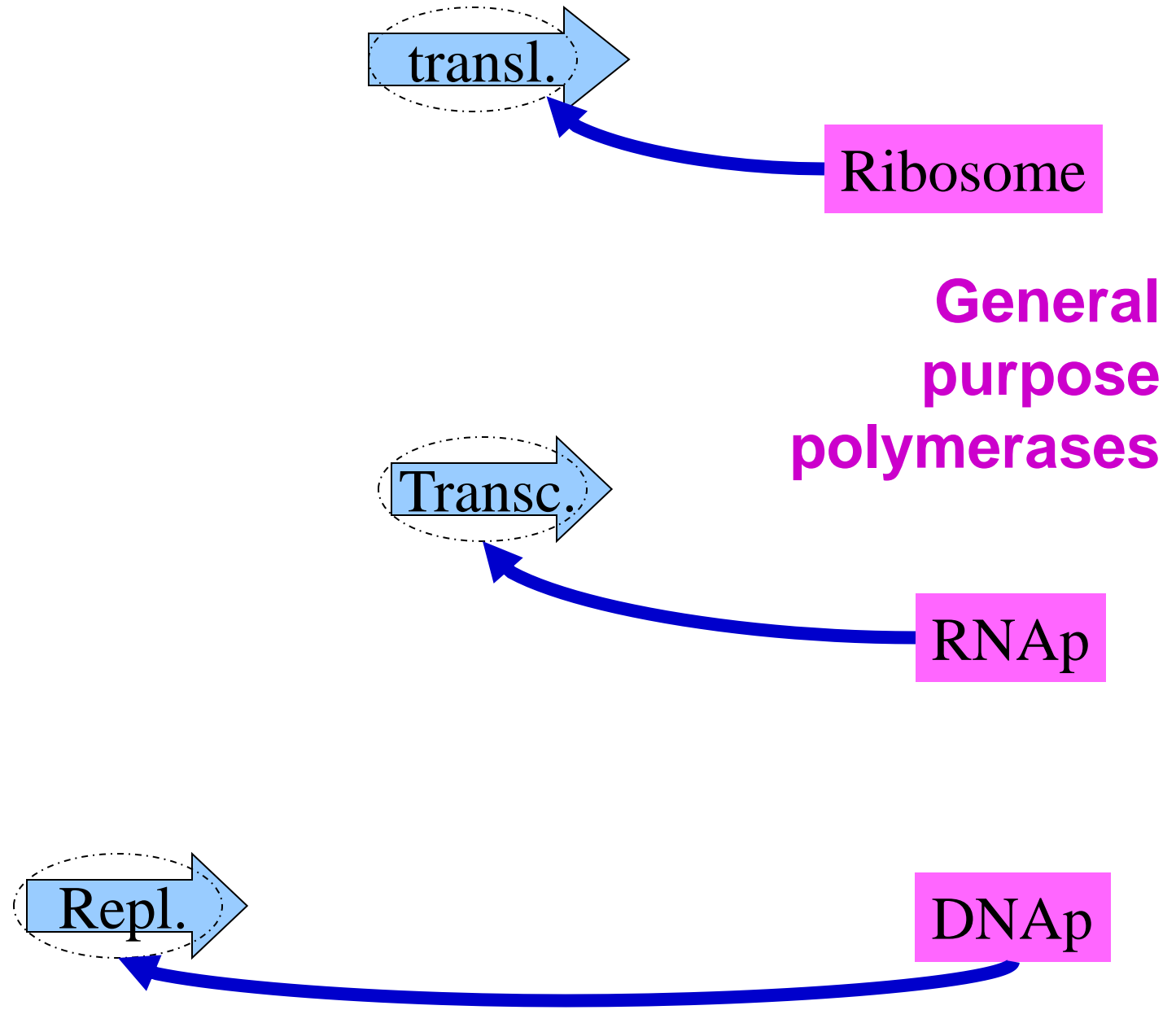


Building
blocks

Building blocks

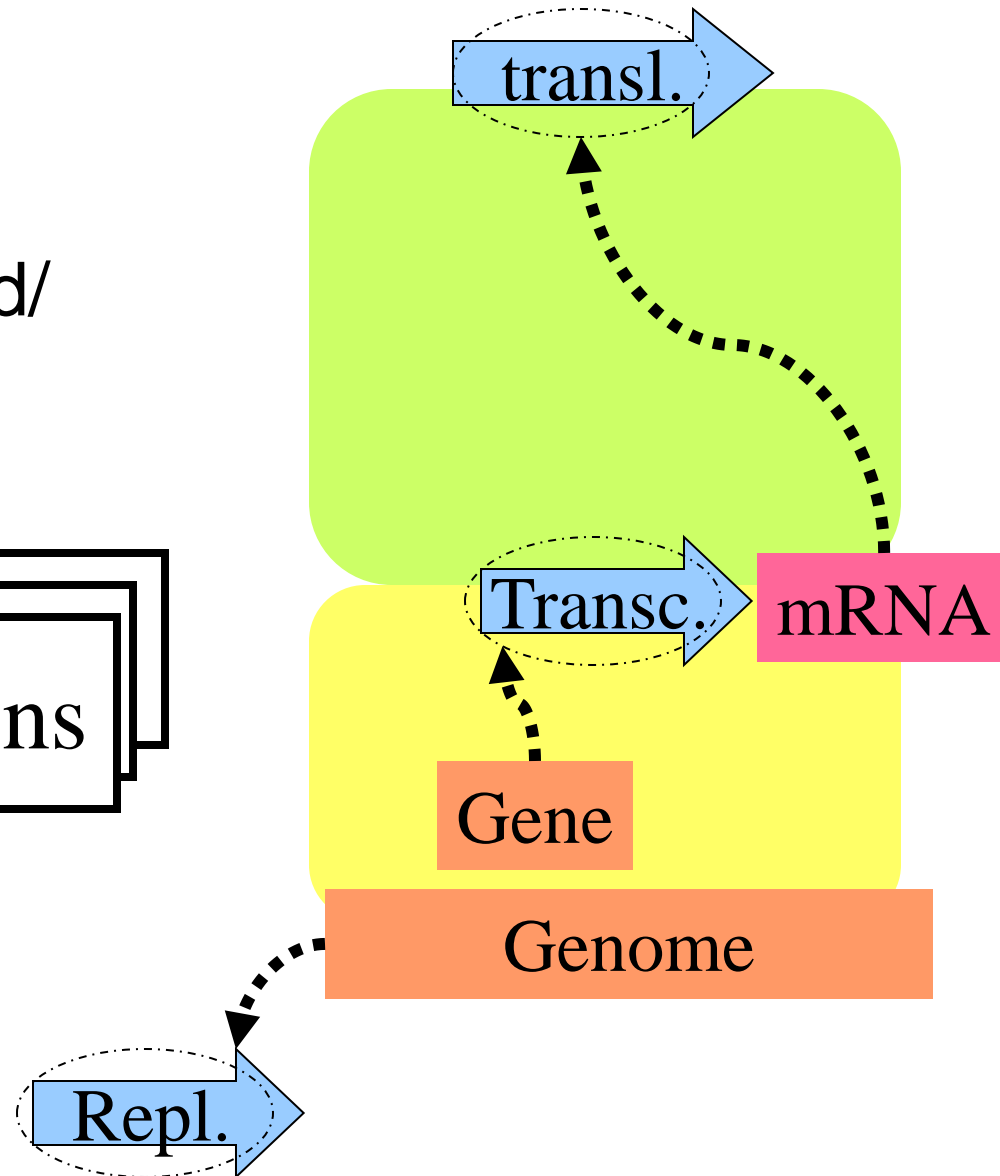
Assemblies



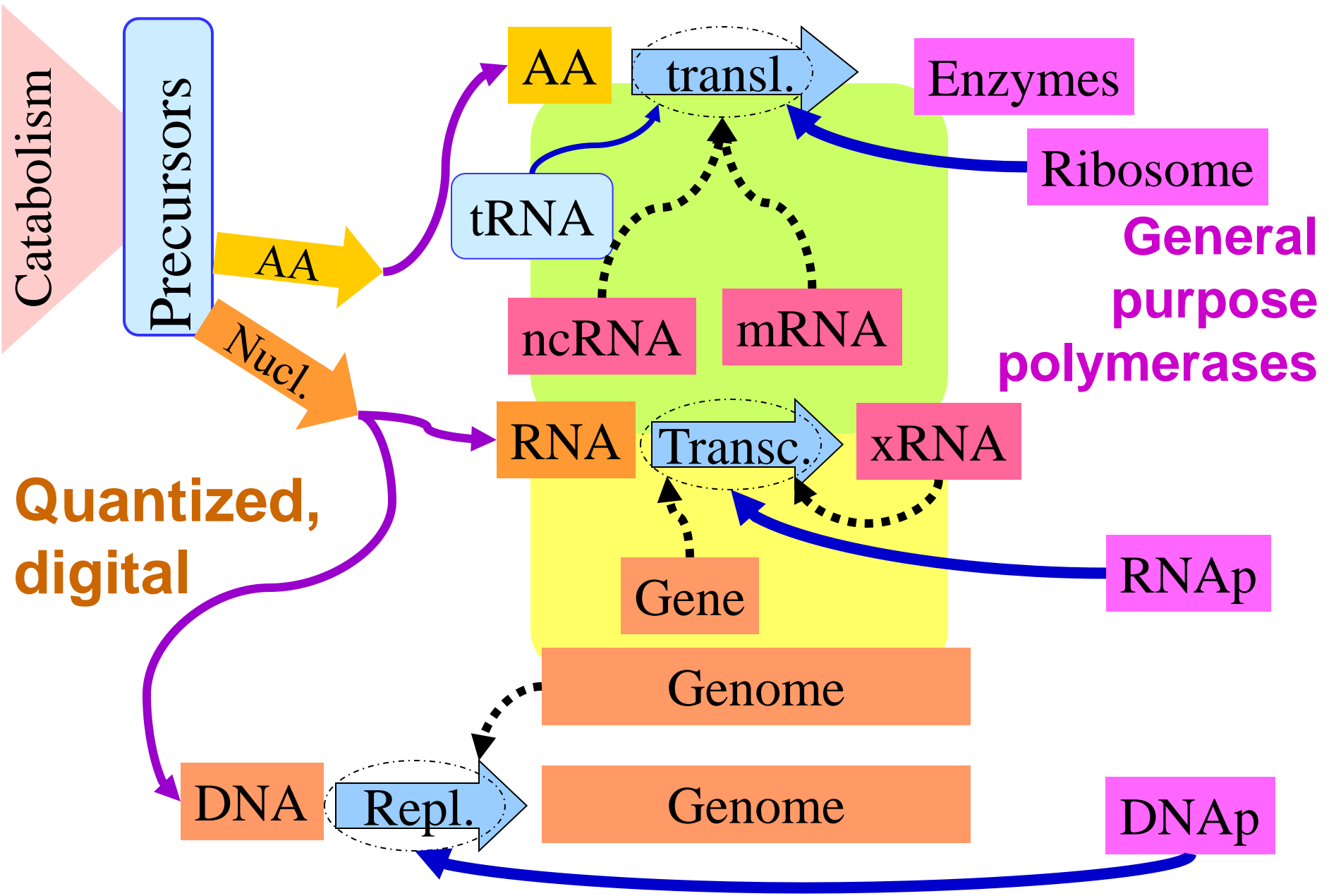


Quantized/
digital

Instructions



Lower layers



Catabolism

Precursors

AA

Nucl.

**Unlike
Lego**

**All enzymes
are made from
(mostly)
proteins and
(some) RNA.**

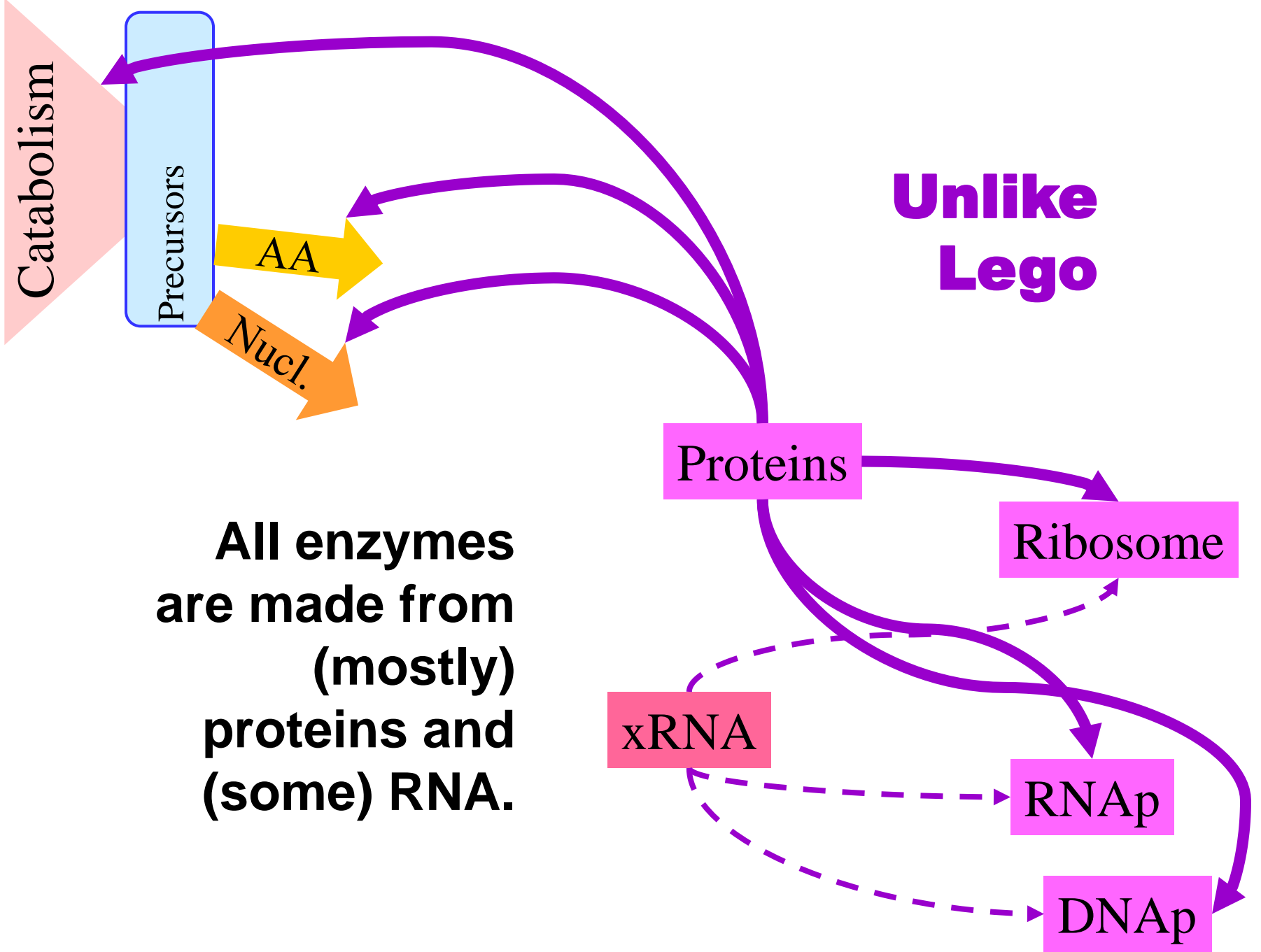
Proteins

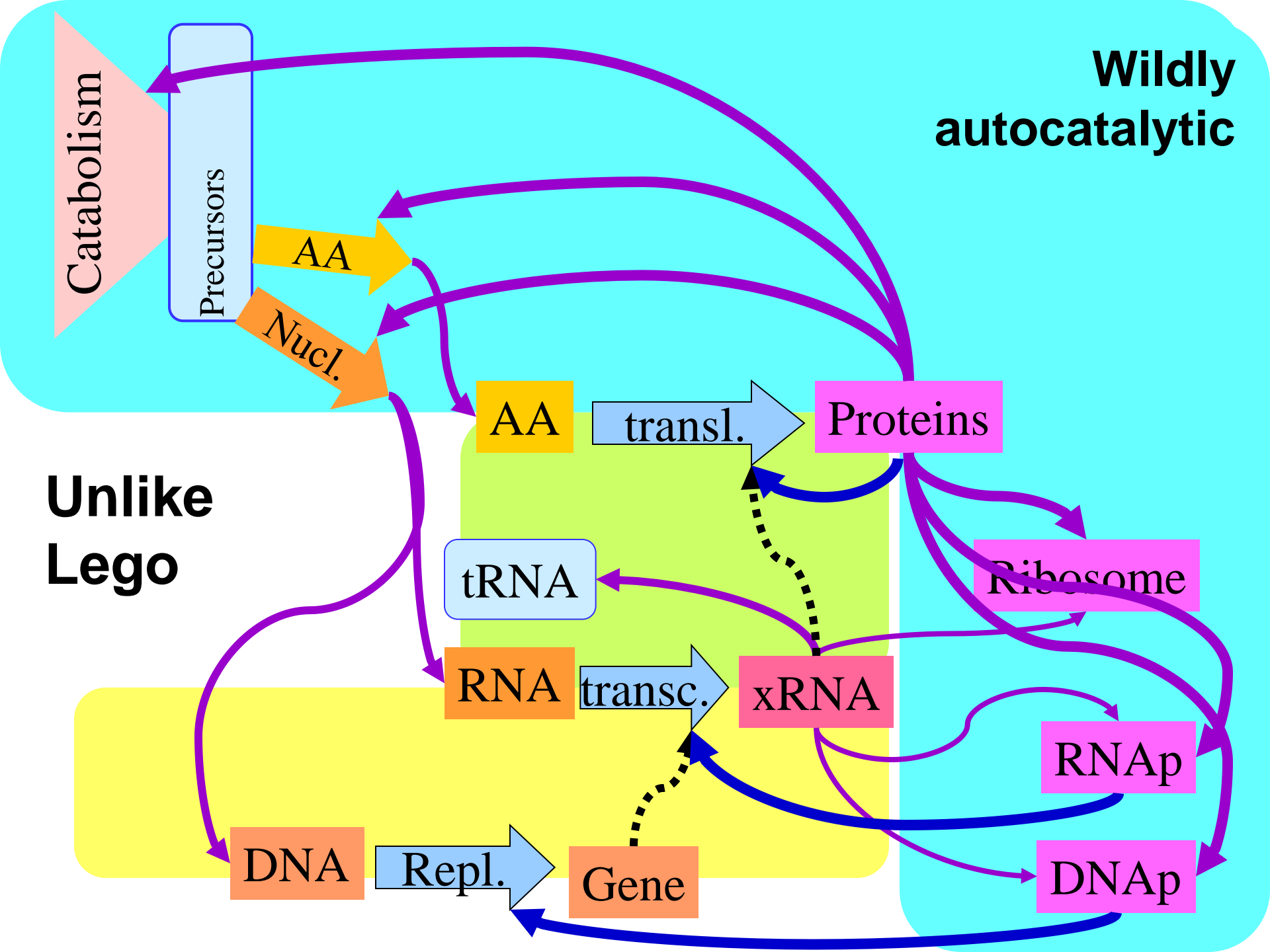
Ribosome

xRNA

RNAp

DNAp





Lego hourglass

Huge variety
of toys



control



Standardized mechanisms
Highly conservative

assembly



Large (<< huge)
Variety of parts

Huge variety
of instructions



Instructions



Analog behavior
Kinematics
Dynamics



Digital description
Control
Assembly

control



Instructions

Analog behavior
Kinematics
Dynamics

Digital description
Control
Assembly

control

Instructions

Reactions

Flow/error

Carriers

Proteins

Translation
Reactions

Flow/error

RNA level

Transcription
Reactions

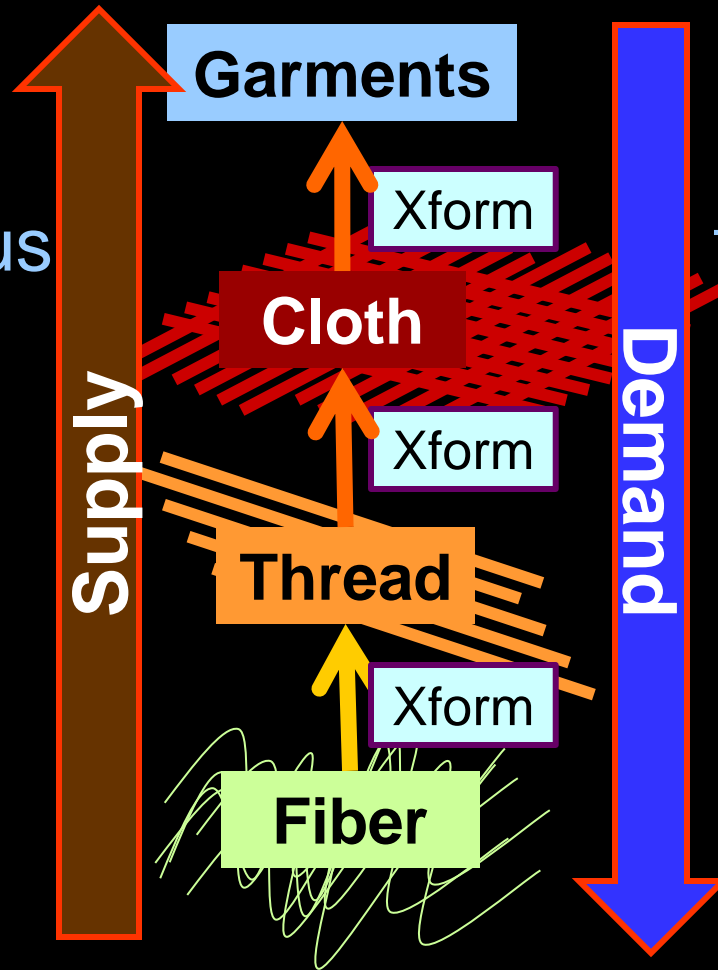
Flow/error

A level

Universal strategies?

Even though garments seem analog/continuous

quantization
for robustness



Garments have limited access to threads and fibers

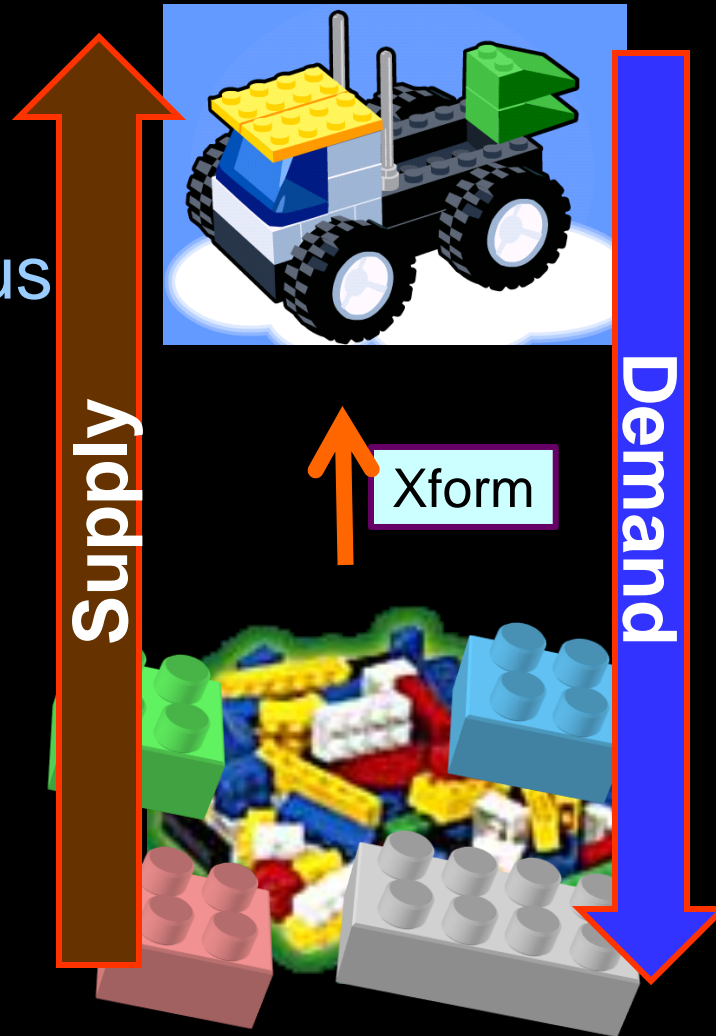
constraints on
cross-layer
interactions

Prevents unraveling of lower layers

Universal strategies?

Even though
toys seem
analog/continuous

quantization
for robustness



Toys have
limited access to
(hidden) snaps

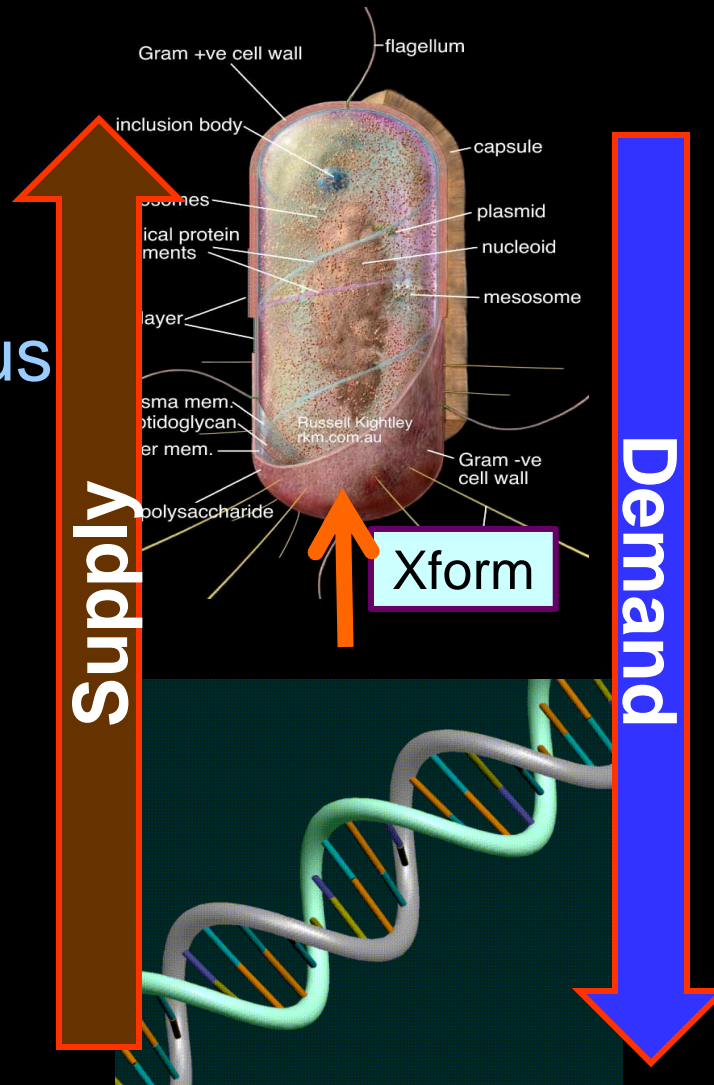
constraints on
cross-layer
interactions

Prevents unraveling of lower layers

Universal strategies?

Even though
Cells seem
analog/continuous

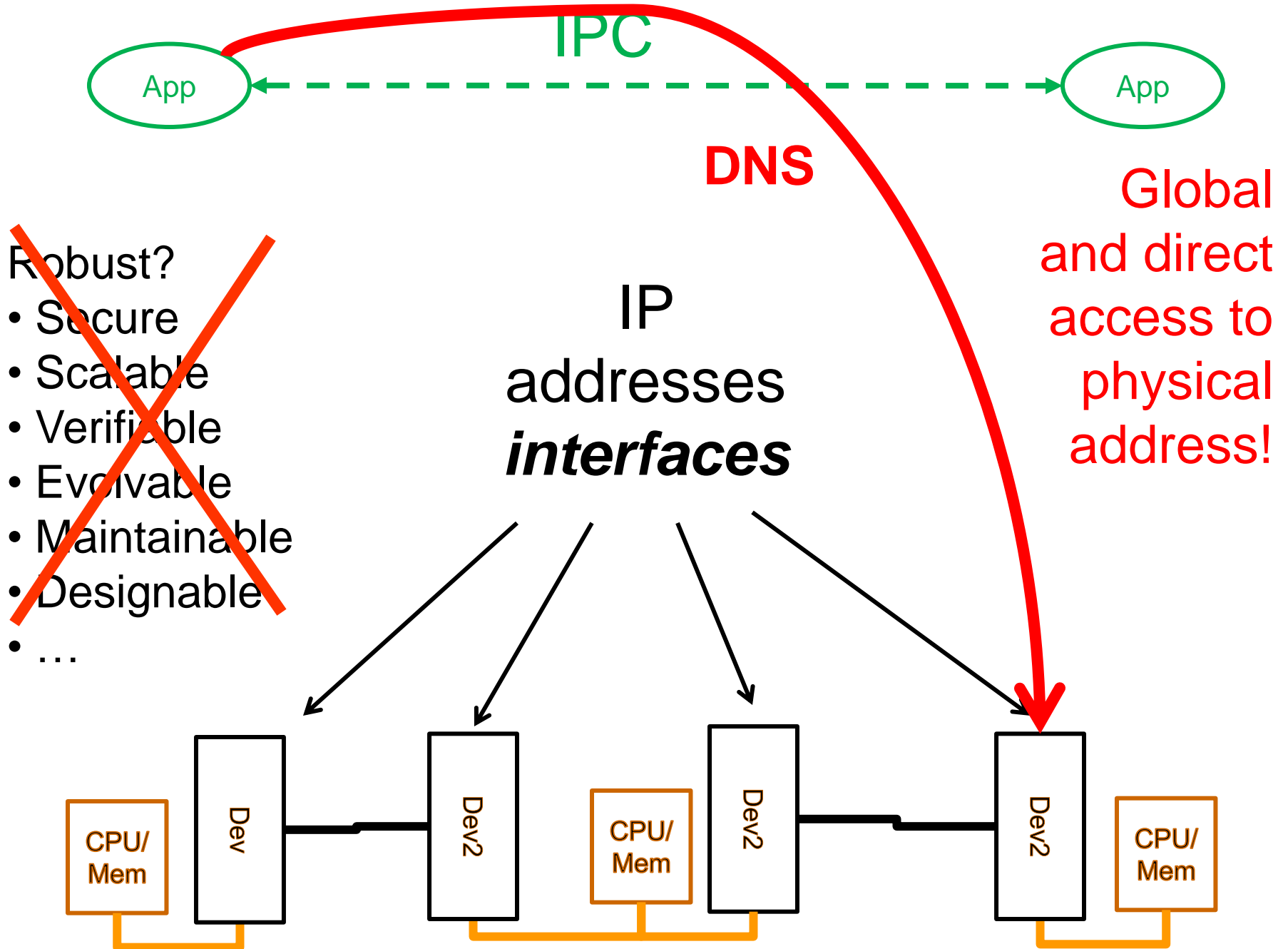
quantization
for robustness



Cells have limited
and structured
access to DNA
layer

constraints on
cross-layer
interactions

Prevents unraveling of lower layers



Huge variety
of phenotypes

Standardized mechanisms
Highly conserved

Huge variety
of instructions

Reactions

Flow/erro

Carriers

Proteins

Translation
reactions

Flow/erro

RNA level

Transcription
reactions

Flow/erro

A level

Instructions

control

assembly

Huge variety
of phenotypes

Standardized mechanisms
Highly conserved

Huge variety
of instructions

Large (<< huge)
Variety of parts

Instructions

Reactions

Flow/erro

Carriers

Proteins

Translation
Reactions

Flow/erro

RNA level

Transcription
Reactions

Flow/erro

A level

control

assembly

Reaction

Robust yet fragile

Flow/erro

Carriers

Extremes of

- Robust yet fragile
- Unity and diversity
- Simplicity and complexity
- Constrained and flexible
- Frozen and evolvable
- Digital and analog

Flow/

RNA

Flow/erro

DNA level

Instructions



fan-in
of diverse
inputs

universal
carriers

fan-out
of diverse
outputs

Bowties: flows
within layers

Diverse
function

**Universal
Control**

Diverse
components

Essential ideas

Robust
yet
fragile

Constraints
that
deconstrain

fan-in
of diverse
inputs

fan-out
of diverse
outputs

Diverse
function

Diverse
components

Highly robust

- Diverse
- Evolvable
- Deconstrained

Robust
yet fragile

Constraints that
deconstrain

universal
carriers



Highly fragile

- Universal
- Frozen
- Constrained

**Universal
Control**

Robust
yet fragile

Constraints that
deconstrain

fan-in
of diverse
inputs

universal
carriers

fan-out
of diverse
outputs

Bowties: flows
within layers

Diverse
function

**Universal
Control**

Diverse
components

Essential ideas

Robust
yet
fragile

Constraints
that
deconstrain

What theory is relevant to these more complex feedback systems?

$$\frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{\infty} \ln |S(j\omega)| \frac{z}{z^2 + \omega^2} d\omega \geq \ln \left| \frac{z+p}{z-p} \right|$$

metabolism
lineage

